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AND

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BIRTH.

On the 12th instant, at Hoihow, the wife of P. E. O'BRIEN-BUTLER, of H.B.M. Consular Service, China, of a daughter. [114]

MARRIAGE.

At Shanghai, on the 11th May, by his Imperial German Majesty's Consul-General, and at the Union Church by the Rev. Lic. Hackmann, CHRISTIAN PETOR ADOLPH HANSEN, Imperial Maritime Customs, to MARGARETHE DOROTHEA HENRIOTTE BALDAMUS, of Hamburg.

DEATHS.

At Numazu, on the 30th April, ALEXANDER JOSEPH WATT, eldest son of WILLIAM NOBLE WATT, of Yokohama, aged 24 years.

On the 1st May, at Yokohama, M. T. B. MACPHERSON, aged 47 years.

On the 2nd May, at Kobe, after a long and painful illness, CARL KOEPPE, a native of Düsseldorf, Rhenish Prussia, aged 41 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The English mail of the 16th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*, on the 15th May (29 days); and the American mail of the 21st April arrived, per P. M. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 17th May (26 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The election for the new Municipal Council at Shanghai took place on the 10th and 11th May.

General Martitegui, who was on his way out to take up the appointment of Commander-General in Mindanao, died at Aden.

M. Gerard, the French Minister, had his farewell audience of the Emperor Kuang Hsi on the 21st April in the Wenhua Throne-hall.

Marquis Ito, who is to attend the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the suite of Prince Arisugawa, left Yokohama by the *Empress of India* on the 7th May.

Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister to Tokyo, left Japan for England by the *Empress of India* on the 7th May. His Excellency expects to be absent six months.

A telegram from Peking confirms the rumour that Lu Hai-huan, Taotai of Chinkiang, had been selected by the Emperor to become Minister to Germany.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The adjourned inquest on the body of the late Rev. J. S. Collins was held at Foochow on the 5th May, when it was found that death occurred through accidental drowning.

A hitch is reported to have arisen in connection with the new treaty between France and Japan, owing to the denial to foreigners of the right of owning landed property in Japan.

It appears, says a Japan contemporary, that the delay and inconvenience arising out of the fact that there is no cable communication with Hawaii has stimulated the Government to give increased attention to the Pacific cable projects recently.

Figures showing in a striking manner the decline of the Amoy tea trade are given in the Consular report for 1896. In the season 1876-77 the production of the Amoy district was 27,200,000 lbs.; last season it was only 3,600,000.

The *Yiksang* arrived at Nagasaki on the morning of the 6th May and went into dock for repairs. Her bottom, the *Nagasaki Ship-ping List* says, was smashed and bent in the most remarkable manner; indeed seeing her in dock it seems a miracle that she was ever got off the rocks on which she struck. The enquiry into the affair, we understand, will be held in Nagasaki.

A well-known local firm, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, has secured a contract for the supply of machinery for a new arsenal, now being established at Tsinanfu, Shantung. The plant is of English manufacture, coming from Leeds, Yorks, and will form part of an equipment costing Tls. 300,000 for the manufacture of b.l. gingals and Mauser rifles. The rifles are to be 11mm. calibre, and the output is to be limited at the outset.

It is reported from Yochou, Hunan province, that a portion of the new telegraph line between Changsha and Wuchang, the capitals of Hunan and Hupeh respectively, was recently cut down by some unruly villagers on the route, in defiance of the Governor's proclamation promising condign punishment. The officials have found out who were the perpetrators of the deed, but nothing, so far, has been done to bring the guilty to punishment.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It is expected, says the *Rising Sun*, that the railway will be opened to Nagasaki next month. The branch of the Kinsui Railroad Co. from Nagasaki to Togitsu is very nearly finished, and on the other side it is complete from Haiki to the main line at Takeo. Connections between Togitsu and Haiki will be effected by a steam ferry across the Omura gulf.

His Imperial Highness Prince Arisugawa, who is to represent the Emperor of Japan at the Diamond Jubilee festivities, is a passenger for Europe by the M. M. steamer *Yanytse*. The presents for H.M. Queen Victoria from their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, which are being taken by Prince Arisugawa, are said to be embroidered silk screens and a gold lacquered cabinet of most elaborate design and workmanship.

According to the *Semaine Coloniale*, the Saigon rice crop, which it was believed would be an exceptional one and a third above the average, has turned out quite an ordinary one, and merchants who had entered into contracts on the basis of the earlier prospects, now find it difficult to fulfil their engagements. Rice which a week previously had been quoted at \$2.83 was at the date of the paper from which we quote, 4th May, \$3.05. This increase, says our contemporary, if it does not mean ruin, will at least involve many in heavy loss.

The Court at Haiphong has given judgment for the Insurance Companies and against the Government in the case arising out of the attempt by the Government to enforce payment of arrears of fees under the registration law. The judgment is based on the ground that the law in question is not in force in Tonkin, that country being a protectorate and the necessary steps to make the law applicable not having been taken. Great importance is attached by the *Courrier d'Haiphong* to this decision, as it affects a great number of commercial transactions and transfers of property as well as insurance policies.

At a meeting of the Leal Senado of Macao held on the 21st April Mr. A. J. Basto, the President, stated that in his double capacity of Consular Agent for France and President of the Leal Senado he had received information through the French Consul at Hongkong that Dr. Yersin had promised to send some tubes of his anti-plague serum. Mr. Basto said it gave him great pleasure to make this statement and to mention the promptitude with which this benefactor of humanity had acceded to the request made on behalf of the city, the telegram received by the French Consul at Hongkong stating that the serum was already on the way.

It is reported, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that Viceroy Liu Kun-yi is to be granted a year's leave, and that his post at Nanking is to be taken by H.E. Chang Chih-tung, the latter's post at Wuchang being given to either Chao Shu-jao, Governor of this Province, or Tan Chi-hsun, Governor of Hupeh. The latter has acted as Viceroy of Hukwang, and is now in Peking and so on the spot; while Chao has had no experience as Viceroy, but is greatly in favour with the Emperor, as his phenomenal promotion in three years from the Taotaihip of Wen-shao shows; he has an excellent record as a clear-headed, energetic, and popular official, while Tan's only claim is that of long, but not exceptionally brilliant service.

THE FLEET AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

(12th May).

It is extremely probable, we hear, that during the celebration here of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee the Queen's Navy will be meagrely represented. Indeed, we have reason to believe that, according to present arrangements, only one vessel of the status of a first class cruiser will be in port; and that one unable, for good reasons, to make any special show on the occasion. It is, however, some little time before the commemoration will take place; and it is sincerely to be hoped for every reason that the arm which has fitly been termed England's first line of defence will be represented as it should be. Needless to say, if the comfort of the Navy is to be consulted before the honour of the gracious sovereign it serves, the vessels will remain North in cooler climes. But Britannia's seamen are, we feel confident, worthy successors of the men who did their duty so nobly under NELSON, BLAKE, COLLINGWOOD, and others, and they would not for one moment set personal comfort in the scale with the duty of gathering in British waters on this great day in the annals of the illustrious lady who for sixty years has ruled over the wide Empire of which this little colony is the Ultima Thule in Asia. Here, in this harbour, in the first colony acquired during Queen VICTORIA's reign, the fine vessels of the Squadron, should gather from all sides, except those on duty in the Straits Settlements, which of course will remain at Singapore. There should, on this memorable day, be such a fleet anchored as would do credit alike to sovereign, nation, and colony; to take the lead in the thunderous salute that will proclaim her reign the longest and most glorious in British annals; to take part in the review of the Naval and Military forces which is to impress the imagination and fire the minds of Her Majesty's lieges of every race and colour. There is good reason to believe that the various foreign squadrons in these waters will be well represented here during the Diamond Jubilee, and Japan purposes sending a special squadron to be present. It would be strange indeed for these friendly visitors to find the white ensign conspicuous by its almost complete absence from the harbour! On the occasion of the German EMPEROR's last birthday there was an unusually large gathering of men-of-war of all nations in port, and the salvoes then fired were something memorable. Ought the Chinese on a special occasion like the forthcoming Jubilee commemoration to witness anything less imposing afloat than was then displayed? We trow not, and we do not believe that such is the desire of the British Government. If the Vice-Admiral in Command of the Fleet has any doubt as to the wishes of the Admiralty he might telegraph for instructions. There is ample time to alter present arrangements and rendezvous the main portion of the Squadron here for the celebration. No one will for a moment doubt Sir ALEXANDER BULLER's patriotic sentiments; but we must be excused for deprecating his adherence to naval custom and precedent in the movements of the ships at a time when all custom and all precedent should be brushed aside in order to magnify the event and do honour to the QUEEN. The health of the Squadron is of course of immense importance, but there are times in its history when even that ceases to be a paramount consideration, and there is nothing so specially pestilential in the air of Hongkong that a three days' sojourn here

need cause dismay or even entail any serious risk. Finally, we trust that the Colonial Government will take the matter up in order that there may not be the fiasco at present looming before us. For with a large number of the men of the Hongkong Regiment absent, and the expected reinforcement of Artillery still to come, the review promises to be an indifferent spectacle. If these things are worth doing at all, let us do them well. The eyes of the Chinese nation are upon us; there will be tens of thousands of visitors from the mainland to witness the pageant, and its details will be talked of far and wide. To make the spectacle effective we must depend largely on the Navy, and we yet hope that we shall not be disappointed. The displays at Portsmouth on less memorable occasions than this have ere now aroused the wonder and admiration of great monarchs, and Her Majesty's Fleet in China and Japan if gathered in this harbour would assuredly furnish a sight well worth beholding, while the battalions of seamen and marines if paraded at Wong-nei-cheong would render the review a really imposing display.

[Since the above was written it has been officially announced that the following vessels will be present at Hongkong for the Diamond Jubilee:—*Lindaunted, Humber, Rattler, and Phoenix*.]

THE EXAMINATION OF ACCUSED PERSONS.

In an interesting letter which appeared in our columns a few days ago the Hon. W. MERGH GOODMAN said he would be glad to see the statutory power possessed by Judges and Magistrates in this colony of examining an accused person used more frequently than at present. Practically the Acts conferring this power are a dead letter. The reason is, perhaps, not far to seek. It is the Judge's duty to keep an open mind in the trial of cases, but this he might find difficult to do if he entered upon an independent examination of a prisoner, in which he would be liable to fall into the position of counsel for the prosecution or the defence, as the case might be. In the former case the jury might be inclined to think that the prisoner was being unfairly dealt with and acquit him on that ground, even though the evidence in itself were strong enough to convict. Whatever the reason, certain it is that Judges very seldom exercise the power conferred upon them, and on the rare occasions that they have done so their questions have been directed simply at clearing up some point of detail arising on the evidence already given and not to the obtaining of a full and complete statement from the prisoner. Even if the power were more extensively used it would be but a poor substitute for the regular examination of the accused person as a witness by his own counsel and his cross-examination by the counsel for the Crown, as proposed by the Law of Evidence Bill now before the House of Commons. The second reading of that Bill was carried by 210 votes to 41, a majority of 169, so that there is little doubt this useful measure will at last be passed. In that case no time ought to be lost in bringing into force a similar amendment of the law in this colony, for, as Mr. GOODMAN says, it would facilitate the ascertainment of the truth, whether of guilt or innocence, and with Asiatic witnesses the difficulties in satisfactorily proving a case are often very great. The necessity for an amendment of the law is even greater here than in England.

In the debate which took place in the

House of Commons on the second reading of the Law of Evidence Bill the argument was in favour of the measure. Several members opposed it, but their speeches as reported in the *Times* possess little or no substance. The only argument of any weight they advanced was that a nervous person taken out of the dock and placed in the witness box might by reason of his nervousness not be able to give his evidence in a clear and connected manner and inferences to his disadvantage might be drawn from his confusion. We do not ourselves think that an innocent person would ever be prejudiced in that way, but, even granting the possibility, the advantages and disadvantages on each side have to be weighed against each other, and the balance is decidedly in favour of the alteration of the existing law. Sir E. CLARKE made the strongest speech in favour of the Bill and gave instances from his own experience showing the absurdity and the danger of the existing law. One case he mentioned was that of a clergyman who was charged with committing a criminal offence in respect of some children. The only evidence that could have been called besides himself really was his wife, and she could not be called; he was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment for each offence, the terms to be consecutive—that was to say, four years' imprisonment. He went to prison in November. The man from prison put before the Home Secretary reasons for his release. The Home Secretary declined to make any recommendation until the girls had been indicted for perjury. In the following April or May the girls were indicted for perjury. The jury found them guilty of perjury. Why? Because at that trial the man and his wife were the witnesses, and the girls who had given evidence at the previous trial could not be examined. The girls were convicted of perjury; the man was released from prison. He brought an action against his solicitor for want of care or judgment in defending him, but the question of his guilt or innocence was never tried in a case in which all persons could be heard. So it came about that the man was convicted of a shameful offence because his mouth and that of his wife were closed; the children were convicted because they could not be heard when a charge of perjury was brought against them; and if it was possible, said Sir EDWARD, under any system of law for so scandalous a thing as that to have taken place, surely it was time that some remedy should be applied. Other cases he mentioned were those in which persons who had been convicted of fraud subsequently proved their innocence when they appeared as witnesses in civil actions arising out of the same circumstances as those in connection with which they had been criminally convicted. Such cases as these show the importance to an innocent person accused of crime of being able to go into the witness-box and give evidence on his own behalf. As to guilty persons, Sir F. LOCKWOOD put the matter neatly in a single sentence. He was sure, he said, there was no hon. and learned member who had been in the habit of defending prisoners who did not remember how often he had appealed to juries as to the hardship "to this poor man who stands at the bar with his mouth closed" and all the time thanking his stars that he could not put him in the box. To the innocent the proposed amendment of the law will be an advantage; to the guilty it will be a disadvantage, but surely no one would contend that a state of the law which favours guilt should be maintained.

THE AMOY CONSULAR TRADE REPORT.

MR. CHRISTOPHER T. GARDNER has written quite a voluminous report on the trade of Amoy for 1896, in which he makes numerous suggestions, chiefly for the extension of what is known as the muck and truck trade, in which he appears to be a great believer. One reason of the success of foreigners as against British in the trade in small articles in the Amoy district, and, indeed, throughout China generally, "is that a feeling exists amongst the British that it is more genteel to deal in certain commodities than in others. Thus, at home a brewer holds a higher social position than a grocer or haberdasher. In China dealers in tea and silk were our commercial aristocracy, and articles other than the two above named were called 'muck and truck,' and it was considered derogatory to deal in them. The trade in them was consequently taken up by foreigners, who naturally imported goods made in their respective countries. This policy is in the process of being modified." Mr. GARDNER also thinks an impulse to our trade would be given if exhibitions of our industries were permanently established at Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai, and he further suggests that in such exhibitions simple machinery in working order might be shown. This is a suggestion that has often been made before with respect to Hongkong and Shanghai; but the present repetition of it is none the less valuable on that account. Mr. GARDNER's reason for including Singapore is that thousands of returning emigrants start from there for Amoy, also because the native merchants there generally have agents in Amoy and are themselves acquainted with the requirements of the locality. The Consul seems, indeed, to have great faith in Singapore as a trade and educative connection of Amoy. An enterprising Singapore firm proposes to establish a line of steamers, starting once a week from Amoy to Singapore. If such steamers, says Mr. GARDNER, would connect with the British and French mail steamers at Singapore it is possible that much of the cargo from Amoy to Europe, which is now transhipped at Hongkong might be transhipped at Singapore. Shipping people will probably smile at this suggestion. Another curious suggestion is that missionaries should be utilised as commercial travellers. "There are in China about a thousand of our missionaries, most of them inured to travelling in the country, and many of them (especially those belonging to the China Inland Mission) acquainted with trade. If our manufacturers could induce the heads of the China Inland Mission to allow some of their staff to act as commercial travellers, these would be a valuable aid, nor would their spiritual work suffer, as, being ostensibly engaged in trade, they would be less liable to suspicion and dislike than if only engaged in proselytising, the motive of which the Chinese find it difficult to understand." Some missionaries are reputed already to do a little trading on their own account or on commission, but obviously the system is not one that it would be desirable to adopt generally. Such suggestions as this seem to indicate a little want of mental ballast on the part of the writer, but nevertheless the report taken as a whole is a useful and instructive one. Mr. GARDNER has tried to make it as complete as possible and has accompanied it with samples for

the information of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the samples including trade marks, the choice and colour of which are in China very important. Accordingly Mr. GARDNER encloses for transmission to the Associated Chambers of Commerce, but not for publication, four hundred odd appropriate trade marks or labels, which he recommends to the various home dealers who may wish to push the sale of their commodities in China, and from which they can make a selection. But where have these trade marks come from? If Mr. GARDNER has invented them himself he must be wonderfully prolific in ideas, and if, on the other hand, they are trade marks already in use, how can traders in general make a selection from them?

THE NEW SANITARY BY-LAWS.

(15th May).

The sanitary by-laws which will be submitted for final approval at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday next were passed by the Sanitary Board in October last. The Government does not appear to have been greatly impressed with their urgency, as it allowed more than six months to elapse before submitting them to the Council, and without the approval of that body they cannot take effect. However, after this long interval they were first submitted to the Council on the 3rd May, the unofficial members having had only two days' notice of the character of the by-laws. It was naturally objected that this time was too brief for a proper study of such an important matter, and H.E. the Governor consented to postpone the by-laws for a week, although he said he did "not like to take the responsibility," and that he could not "take the responsibility, with the plague in the neighbourhood of this colony, of postponing all this necessary work for a further period." After postponing it for six months the responsibility of postponing it for another week does not strike one as very stupendous. The postponement was very fortunate, for at the next meeting of the Council His Excellency stated that, having reason to believe that objections existed in certain quarters to some of the by-laws, he had taken steps to ascertain what those objections were, and he proceeded to consider the objections and to suggest compromises which do credit alike to His Excellency's good feeling and good sense. In conclusion he said that "the desire of the Government was to have the strongest possible measures for the protection of the health of the public without unnecessary interference with the liberty of the subject." In that desire the whole community will cordially join and the by-laws as they were amended by the Council and subsequently adopted by the Sanitary Board may be accepted as reasonably calculated to secure the ends in view. No. 5 of the by-laws, which has been struck out, dealt with a very important matter, namely, the obstruction of private lanes in such manner as to prevent the proper ventilation of buildings opening on to such lanes. It is essential that this matter should be dealt with. The striking out of the by-law referring to it does not mean that it has been dropped entirely, for it has been referred to the Insanitary Properties Commission. That body may possibly be able to suggest some amendment, but however the details may be arranged it is of the first importance that structures excluding light and air from buildings opening on to private lanes should not be permitted. The

only other amendment of very great importance made by the Legislative Council in the by-laws was in No. 25. As originally passed by the Board this by-law (then No. 26) empowered "any officer of the Sanitary Board, specially authorised in writing by the said Board under the hand of its Secretary," during the prevalence of an epidemic, to enter houses, tear down cocklofts and partitions, remove the furniture, and destroy the lot. In commenting on the by-laws in October last we drew attention to this extraordinary power and said we would be surprised if the Legislative Council was found ready to meet the views of the Sanitary Board in that respect. The compromise now arrived at is that no action is to be taken in the direction of removing goods and furniture until a report has been made to the Medical Officer of Health or to such other officer as may be appointed for that purpose by the Sanitary Board with the approval of the Governor, such officer to make a personal inspection and give directions in the matter. The destruction of goods and furniture can therefore only be carried out upon the order of a responsible officer. In the debate at the Sanitary Board on Thursday the Captain Superintendent of Police raised the question whether a subordinate officer of the Board would be considered a responsible officer in this sense and he spoke in high terms of the ability and trustworthiness of the Chief Inspector of Nuisances. We believe Mr. GERMAIN, who has rendered valuable services with scant recognition, fully merits what Mr. MAY said concerning him, and if it were deemed desirable to entrust to him the power referred to in by-law 25 we fail to see that the fact of his being a subordinate officer of the Board should be held to be an objection. The point is that such a very extraordinary and exceptional power should be exercised only by men of experience and proved trustworthiness and should not be considered an ordinary adjunct to the functions of the Inspectors of Nuisances, some of whom, while efficient in the discharge of their ordinary duties, may not possess the intelligence and discretion necessary for the exercise of such powers as are conferred by the by-law in question. It is no light thing to enter a man's house and throw his goods and furniture out into the street and burn them; amongst an English community such a proceeding would probably place the officers carrying it out in some personal danger from the resentment of the victims, and it is to the credit of the Chinese community that in the epidemics of 1894 and 1896 they submitted to the hardship with so little opposition. We hope the necessity may never again arise, nor do we see why it should if the Sanitary Board and its officers do their duty, for full power of inspection exists at all times for ascertaining the condition of houses, and, as was said in this column when the by-laws were passed in October last, what is required is that cleanliness shall be permanently observed in the colony, not that things shall be allowed to drift into the old groove and that we shall have an absurd crusade of pulling down and burning whenever an epidemic breaks out.

(19th May.)

The new by-laws made by the Sanitary Board have now received the sanction of the Legislative Council and, in times of epidemic, the Board by its duly authorised officers will have power to pull down partitions and destroy furniture and other property, the owners possessing no right of appeal. The power is a very great and extraordinary one, but under the conditions

under which the officers exercising it are to be appointed we think confidence may be felt that it will be exercised with reasonable discretion, should it ever have to be exercised at all, which we trust will not be the case. The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, while not moving any amendment to the particular by-law in question, seemed to think it would be better that an order should, in each case where destruction of property was deemed necessary, be obtained from a Magistrate. The objection to that is the loss of time that would be entailed. It is only in cases of emergency that the power is to be exercised, and when the emergency arises it is desirable it should be met with as little red tape and circumlocution as possible. If the power were confided to the hands of incompetent or untrustworthy officers no doubt it would be abused and might be made the occasion of bribery, but the officers are to be specially appointed by the Sanitary Board and approved by the Governor, which may be taken as a sufficient guarantee that they will be men whose characters are above suspicion; they will, moreover, be subjected to very close observation on the part of the public whose interests are affected and any irregularities would probably soon be brought to light. The power is not one that could with safety have been conferred on the rank and file of the force that may at any time be engaged in combatting an epidemic of plague or other disease, but with the safeguards now provided we think it may be regarded without serious uneasiness.

PUBLICITY FOR THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

Article 13 of the standing orders and rules of the Sanitary Board provides that "All meetings of the Board whether in Committee of the whole or as a Board shall be public unless a motion is made to exclude strangers and carried by a majority of the members present." It is, however, of little use that the meetings are nominally public unless public notice is given of when they are to be held. As regards the ordinary meetings of the Board the agenda is sent to the Press as a matter of regular routine, and so much as is of public interest in the proceedings is usually reported, but in the case of special meetings it has not hitherto been a rule to send notice to the Press, so that these meetings, at which the business is often of exceptional importance, are in effect held in private, unless the reporters should become aware of them by their own vigilance or by accident. One such meeting was held on Thursday last to consider a specially important subject, namely, the by-laws referred back to the Board by the Legislative Council. Fortunately the reporter of this paper, knowing from the proceedings of the last meeting of the Legislative Council that a meeting of the Board must be held during the course of the week, made it his business to enquire on what day it was to take place, and thus it came about that the meeting was duly reported in our columns. But special meetings of the Board may be summoned under circumstances to which the representatives of the Press can have no clue, and in those cases the proceedings remain unreported. It is unnecessary to dwell on the importance of publicity for the proceedings of the Sanitary Board. At the meeting of the Board on Thursday reference was made to the report of the proceedings of the Legislative Council and it is equally important, as a matter of business routine,

that the members of the latter body should be able to refer to the proceedings of the Sanitary Board; still more important is it that the public at large should know what is being done and said by the Sanitary Board, especially in the existing circumstances, under which the public is deprived of its proper number of representatives on the Board. We cannot suppose that the Board either in ordinary times or as at present constituted can have any desire to hold its meetings in private, except under the circumstances provided for in the standing orders and rules, when a majority of the members present may deem it expedient. We would therefore suggest to the Secretary that he should extend to the Press in respect of special meetings the same courtesy that he does in respect of ordinary meetings and send formal notice in regular course. If the Secretary should be unable to do this on his own responsibility we commend the matter to the attention of the President of the Board and of Mr. N. J. EDE, the only remaining unofficial member. There can be no question as to the duty of these gentlemen in the matter.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT.

The little "breeze" that occurred at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Monday in reference to the alleged want of consideration shown to the unofficial members will, we hope, have the effect of clearing the atmosphere and conducing to the more harmonious working of the legislative machinery of the colony in future. It was the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD who made the complaint, which he directed particularly to the Colonial Secretary. The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART replied that if he had ever in any way treated the unofficial members with a want of consideration it had not been from a desire to do so, but had been quite unintentional. That there has at times been a want of consideration shown we think there can be no doubt, and although it may be admitted that it was unintentional, it is perhaps not difficult to understand the frame of mind which has led to it. One of the principal functions of the unofficial members is to criticise Government measures, and it is not every one who can submit to criticism and love the critic. Mr. WHITEHEAD has been a severe critic of the Government, and his criticism, whether well founded or captious, has at times goaded the official members into irritability, and consideration for others is not a characteristic of the state of irritation. An illustration of this occurred at a very recent meeting of the Council. When it was complained that the unofficial members had not had copies of the new sanitary by-laws supplied in reasonable time to admit of their proper consideration the reply was that they could have got copies for themselves if they wanted them. But it was not the business of the unofficial members to get copies for themselves; they were entitled to have them supplied through the regular official channel, and when it was found that copies had been supplied at such a late date as not to leave sufficient time for consideration before the meeting at which the by-laws were submitted for approval, the dignity of the Council would have been better consulted by frankly recognising the justice of the complaint than by returning short answers.

TONNAGE DUES AT MACAO AND HONGKONG.

The fact that the tonnage dues at Macao are to be abolished in so far as coasting and river steamers are concerned has an important bearing on the light dues question in Hongkong and ought to determine the Government, if not to suppress the light dues altogether, at least to keep them at a very low figure. The step taken by the Portuguese Government has been decided upon with a view of attracting to Macao traffic that would otherwise centre at Hongkong. In former years there was an appreciable trade from Macao to Pakhoi and Hoihow, but with the imposition of heavy tonnage dues at Macao this trade was transferred to Hongkong. The greater facilities enjoyed by this port in the shape of deep water at all states of the tide may also have had something to do with the transfer, but the tonnage dues were the immediate determining factor. In that respect Macao will now enjoy an advantage over Hongkong, as it is to be an absolutely free port so far as coasting and river steamers are concerned. It is difficult to recover a trade once driven away, and Macao may not be able to attract back trade that has been transferred to Hongkong and has taken root here, but that is what the Portuguese Government is aiming at, and the competition of the neighbouring port, though it may not be very serious, is not to be altogether despised. It would be a grave mistake to encourage and strengthen that competition by heavily mulcting vessels for the privilege of entering our harbour.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Mr. COOPER, in his last annual report on the Public Works Department, says that though the accommodation at the Government Civil Hospital is insufficient to meet the increasing requirements of the colony the site is now built over to such an extent that no further buildings should be erected upon it. It has nevertheless been decided, we understand, that the new women's and children's hospital to be erected in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee is to be placed on the site, the last remaining open space of ground being utilised for the purpose. The decision, we think, is an unfortunate one, for there can be no doubt that the Civil Hospital as a whole will in course of time have to be removed to a larger and more open site. It is no doubt true enough that the present arrangement "will last our time," but in establishing a permanent memorial we should look further ahead than that. When Kowloon is connected with Canton by railway and Canton with Hankow and Peking, all of which will inevitably take place sometime, the population of this colony will speedily double, treble, and quadruple itself, and our successors will then probably reproach the present generation for its shortsightedness in not taking advantage of the present opportunity to make a commencement of a new hospital on a new site.

The Russian Volunteer Fleet steamship *Ekaterinislav* narrowly escaped being wrecked, and did lose the blades of her starboard twin propeller, bent the shaft, and, it is feared, cracked the boss, etc., when approaching Nagasaki at four o'clock on the morning of the 8th inst. The place she struck was at Hirado Point on the Gotos. She escaped total loss by little short of a miracle. She has been unloaded and docked for repairs.—*Nagasaki Shipping List.*

THE CARE OF THE WOUNDED IN WAR.

Considerable interest in the care of the wounded in war has been aroused in this colony by the interesting lecture which Surgeon-Colonel EVATT, who is an enthusiast on the subject, has delivered on several different occasions. Medical officers, according to Colonel EVATT, ought to have a brotherhood and comradeship and love for the soldier, whose life and welfare they should study day and night. To that standard the Principal Medical Officer himself conforms and his aim in appearing before the public as a lecturer is, as we understand it, to enlist public opinion in favour of the extension and perfection of the Army Medical Corps, so that, as he puts it, Private THOMAS ATKINS, when wounded, may be as well treated on the battlefield as in his mother's house. Is this ideal an attainable one? In respect of small wars, frontier fighting and expeditions against native chiefs, such as Great Britain frequently has on her hands, the answer must be given in the affirmative, and it must be counted criminal negligence against any Government which allows an army under ordinary circumstances to take the field unprovided with all requirements for the care of the sick and wounded and the sanitary regulation of the camps. But should a great European war unfortunately break out it is to be feared that neither Great Britain nor any other Power would find it within the bounds of human possibility to adequately care for the wounded. Surgeon-Colonel EVATT illustrates his lecture with a very interesting diagram showing the army in the field, each division having its own bearer companies with field hospitals in the rear, whence the wounded are transferred to the stationary hospitals along the line of communication until by appropriate stages they reach the base, when they are placed on a hospital ship, and from that transferred to a sick transport ship, by which they are conveyed to England for treatment at Netley Hospital. The theory is beautiful, and, seeing that it can be carried into effect with considerable efficiency in most of the fighting operations that fall to the lot of the British army, it must not be deprecated or condemned because it may be possible to demonstrate that it would be found impracticable in case of a war on a more extensive scale. Our Shanghai contemporary, the *A. C. Daily News*, in a recent issue summarised some authoritative utterances on this subject, and to give an idea of the suffering the great war of the future will entail we cannot do better than give our contemporary's article in full:—

One of the greatest of the many changes which have come over civilised man within the present century is to be found in his attitude towards those who suffer. In individual experience he has learnt to escape physical pain by means of anaesthetics and sedatives; in family and school life, his infliction of pain by the use of the rod has generally given place to gentler forms of suasion; the sterner measures formerly thought necessary for criminal repression have been so softened that John Howard to-day would find his self-imposed task entirely unnecessary; and lastly, even war itself has been divested of some of the horror which characterised it in days of yore. Man has begun to pride himself on his humanity, and not without reason, for excepting perhaps the Crimean the civilised wars of the past half-century have all shown that spirit of international kindness exemplified by the Geneva Convention and the heroic bands of the Red Cross. Of late years every army has, in addition to these, provided its own Ambulance Corps with its first and second lines of assistance and their field and base hospitals. It

is said that in our little war against Arabi in Egypt no wounded man ever lay longer than a quarter of an hour without help. There were of course but a few hundreds to attend to. But in earlier times, and even occasionally during the Franco-German war of 1870-1, men lay for days unheard, unseen, lingering on till the "first aid" which might have saved many a precious life came just too late. Terrible beyond conception must have been the battlefields of the early years of the century. History says little of these things, but individual accounts of the retreat from Moscow, of Sir John Moore's retirement on Corunna, of the rout of the French army of the Loire in 1871, and of similar events, paint in lurid colours the infernal horrors which may result from war when its amenities have given place to the pitiless logic of accomplished facts.

So far as we are aware nothing has appeared in the public Press in Europe or America to call attention to the stern decision that we are to go back, deliberately and intentionally to go back, to this state of affairs as soon as the signal guns of the long expected war of 189— shall call Europe to arms. Surgeon-General Bardeleben of the Prussian army writes:—"Carrying away the wounded in litters during the battle must be abandoned, for it is altogether impracticable." Thus calmly and dispassionately, with official authority and executive power, he dooms to death by hundreds and thousands those whom humanity would, at every possible risk, rescue. If one asks, Why? the reply is simple, but crushing: There is no help for it! Archibald Forbes says: "When the first great battle of the next great war comes to be fought a million of combatants will be in the field. On the percentage of 1870, and putting aside altogether the effect of the recent developments in man-hurting, the casualties will exceed 140,000. According to the existing ratios, of this number 35,000 would be slain, 70,000 would be comparatively slightly wounded, and 35,000 would be severely wounded.

It follows that if the wounded of the next great battle are to be dealt with as the present arrangements prescribe, apart from the gleaning of the bearers during the battle, surgical assistance will have to be provided for 105,000 wounded, and hospital accommodation for 70,000; namely, the 35,000 severely wounded, and one-half of the 70,000 comparatively slightly wounded. To cope adequately with this vast aggregate of human suffering, with this gigantic example of 'man's inhumanity to man' is obviously impossible: it *confessedly cannot and will not be attempted*." So certain are the authorities on this point that new regulations are already framed to meet the new conditions. The military ambulances which have till now led the line of vehicles in rear of an army are to give place to reserve ammunition wagons; and to prevent unnecessary increase in the number of casualties, the ambulance corps is distinctly ordered to wait till the fighting is done before entering on its work of mercy.

Mr. Forbes in his estimates puts aside altogether "the effect of the recent development in man-hurting" in order that his picture may not be overdrawn. In this he has probably erred from an excess of caution. The weapons of the present day are as much superior to the Chassepôt as was that weapon to the Brown Bess. And if, as at St. Privat, the French fire "accounted for" 6,000 Prussian soldiers in twenty minutes what may we not expect under like circumstances from smokeless powder, repeating rifles, quick-firing field guns, and shells filled with such fiendish power as melinite provides! But even supposing that Mr. Forbes has not underestimated the losses, he has said nothing of the second battle, and the third. The care of alien wounded by a pursuing force is evidently a thing of the past. War will be too short (it is hoped), too sharp, and too decisive for opposing Generals to have time to think of wounded men. The defeated dare not: his one duty will be escape with what is left to him. The victor will not, for his one object will be to pound away at his disorganised foe with every force that can be brought to bear. Indeed it would seem that the amenities of war are to give place to the stern logic of such men as General Sheridan, whose opinion was that war should leave nothing to an enemy but "eyes to

weep his loss." But if things are to be carried to their logical conclusion, why leave the eyes? If it be a good thing to make war so hateful that none would willingly wage it, it must be a still better thing to make it utterly impossible, and therefore why leave an enemy at all? Why not revert to first principles in all their naked simplicity, and wage wars of extermination? It is proverbially unsafe to prophesy, but we venture the opinion that should the tendencies we have outlined become accomplished facts in the "next war" there will be such a revolution of feeling, such a revolution in thought, and such an uprising against the system that makes this wholesale murder possible, that governments will be shaken to their foundations. Greece is providing Europe with a particularly instructive object lesson at the present moment. Over and above the danger to the commonwealth, there is, too, evidently dynastic danger, and the hesitation to enter into war which has for so many years kept Europe in peace, if not at rest, will be strengthened thereby.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 17th May. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Forces.)

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. F. H. MAY (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid the following papers on the table—The Registrar-General's report for 1896; the report of the Po Leung Kuk Society for the year ended 31st December, 1896.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

Financial Minutes Nos. 10, 11, and 12 were referred to the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES' REPORT.

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS moved the adoption of the Public Works Committee's report No. 1.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Carried.

THE SANITARY BY-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It will be with-

in the recollection of this Council that at the last meeting certain sanitary by-laws made by the Sanitary Board were considered.

During their consideration certain amendments were suggested by this Council and the by-laws, as amended, were then referred back to the Sanitary Board for consideration.

Since the last meeting of the Council the Sanitary Board has met and has amended the the by-laws as suggested by this Council. I therefore beg to move that they be approved by this Council, and in so moving I would like to draw attention to by-law No. 25, especially as some misunderstanding seems to have arisen with regard to the style of officer who will be appointed in case the Medical Officer of Health has not sufficient time to attend to all the work that he may have to perform during an epidemic. Emphasis seems to have been laid on the word "subordinate." It seems to have been considered by some that no officer holding a subordinate position would be able to undertake the work. On behalf of the Government I beg clearly to state that it is not a question

of whether a man is a subordinate officer but whether he is a suitable officer such as will be approved by the Governor.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before these by-laws are approved I should like to say one or two words. Probably by-law No. 25 is the most important of all the by-laws in question. When sanctioned it will constitute the Sanitary Board and the Sanitary Board's officers the law of the colony. It will supersede Ordinance 15 of 1894 and will constitute the Sanitary Board the law of the colony and the sole judges of what property shall be pulled down and destroyed. These are very great and unlimited powers and your Excellency rightly and clearly perceived that they should not be entrusted to subordinate officers, but to responsible and thoroughly qualified officers. If subordinate men were entrusted with these powers I feel sure that the doors would be opened to the most grave abuses, especially as we are dealing with Chinese. If we were dealing with Europeans it would be a different thing. At the last meeting of the Council the hon. member opposite (the Captain Superintendent of Police) submitted that the Sanitary Board commands the respect of the community. It is not necessary for me to make any remark upon his statement, but the evidence which was given in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in the cases heard in the autumn of last year, when the Sanitary Board was mulcted in damages for their illegal action in destroying property, did not indicate any necessity for relieving the Sanitary Board of all responsibility and liability to being called to account for its action. The present law, Ordinance 15 of 1894, section 19, sub-section 5, requires the Sanitary Board to prove its case and to obtain an order from a Magistrate before they can begin to remove or destroy property. This by-law No. 25, when it is sanctioned, will deprive the inhabitants of all opportunity of being heard before an impartial authority before their property can be removed and destroyed. Your Excellency rightly perceived that such unlimited discretionary powers should be entrusted to only thoroughly well qualified and responsible officers, and so long as your Excellency remains with us I feel sure that the ratepayers will have no reason to complain. But I submit, Sir, that it is imperatively necessary to see that the officers entrusted with these unlimited arbitrary powers should be thoroughly well qualified and thoroughly responsible.

His EXCELLENCY—Have you any motion to bring forward?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No, Sir.

His EXCELLENCY—I can only repeat the assertion that I made the other day, that so long as I am here only thoroughly qualified officers shall be employed in the work—officers who will command the respect of the European community and also the Chinese community. (Applause.)

The by-laws were then approved.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—These by-laws having been approved I rise to a point of order. At the meeting of Council held two weeks ago attention was called to the fact that the by-laws had been in the possession of the unofficial members for consideration only two clear days before being brought before the Council. I was informed by the Colonial Secretary that if I had thought it fit or necessary I could have referred to the Sanitary Board for a copy of these by-laws. I submit, Sir, that the unofficial members should not be required to go to the Sanitary Board to obtain such papers and in future I hope your Excellency will cause instructions to be issued to the usual authority, the Clerk of Councils, for the unofficial members to be furnished with the papers and given full time to consider them in order that they may consult those whose interests may be seriously affected by any proposed changes. I think that the dignity of the Council would be consulted if more consideration was shown by the hon. Colonial Secretary to the unofficial members. At a meeting of the Council in December last the hon. Colonial Secretary accused the unofficial members of endeavouring to burk a Bill then before the Council, namely, the Military Contribution Bill. Now, Sir, I have before me here the despatch of the Secretary of State on

the subject of this Bill and the word "burk" was utterly inapplicable to the case in question. Why it was employed I do not understand. Paragraph 2 of the Secretary of State's despatch states—"I have to request that you will convey to the unofficial members of the Legislative Council my regret that the Ordinance was submitted to them before the receipt of my despatch in answer to their memorandum, enclosed in your despatch No. 225 of the 23rd September, 1896." I do not make any formal complaint, but I think the dignity of the Council would be consulted if the hon. the Colonial Secretary showed more consideration to the unofficial members.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think the request made by the hon. member that sanitary by-laws should be placed in the hands of the unofficial members for a sufficiently long time to allow of their due consideration is a most reasonable one and it is a request which I am sure your Excellency will see carried out. In regard to the hon. member's accusation that the Colonial Secretary treats the unofficial members with a want of consideration I regret that that should be his opinion, and I trust it is not shared by his colleagues. If I have ever in any way treated hon. members with a want of consideration it has not been from a desire to do so, but has been quite unintentional. I trust that the other hon. members of this Council do not hold the same opinion as that expressed by the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce.

THE VACCINATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Vaccination Ordinance, 1890. In doing so I should like to state that under the Ordinance of 1890 no notice was taken of cases of insusceptibility to successful vaccination. Such cases are extremely rare but this Ordinance is designed to remedy the defect. One case of insusceptibility was brought to my notice and I accordingly prepared this Ordinance by direction of His Excellency and I provided for such cases in section 3, which is taken from the Imperial Vaccination Act of 1867. I submitted this Ordinance to Dr. Atkinson and he says that the section will entirely meet such cases.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed and the Standing Orders, having been suspended the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE FLOGGING ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law as to flogging. It will be within the recollection of hon. members that the subject of flogging in Victoria Gaol was considered by a Committee, who made a voluminous report. The result was that the prison rules were altered, and the Secretary of State desired that the law should also be altered so as to reduce the number of strokes to twenty and to allow the use only of the birch. Some of the previous Ordinances in force made forty strokes the maximum and some required the use of the rattan. I think hon. members will agree that a uniformity as to the maximum number of strokes and the instrument to be used is desirable and should be effected by legislation. The Secretary of State, having considered the matter, sent out instructions to prohibit the use of any instrument for flogging with the exception of the birch and to limit the maximum number of strokes to twenty.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill, which passed through all its stages.

THE REGULATION OF CHINESE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the regulation of Chinese Ordinance, 1888. The objects and reasons are appended to the Bill and they are as follows:—

"Although, with a view to emergencies, it is requisite that the Governor in Council should retain the power at present possessed of requiring Chinese who are out at night to be provided with passes under the Regulation of

Chinese Ordinance, 1888 it is thought desirable so to modify section 30 of that Ordinance as to admit of the relaxation of such requirement when it seems to His Excellency that night passes may be dispensed with without prejudice to the safety and well-being of the community. At present, section 30 of Ordinance 13 of 1888 requires such passes between 9 p.m. and sunrise, unless other hours are fixed by Order in Council. The effect of repealing section 30 and substituting the new section will be that night passes will only be compulsory when they are required by Order of the Governor in Council, published in the Gazette, and then only between such hours of the night as may be fixed by such Order. In the absence of such Order they will not be required at all." I would like to point out to the Council one result of the night and pass regulations according to the report for 1896. It seems that in November and December, 1895, when the provisions as to lights and passes were revived, there were 1,739 persons convicted. In January, 1896, the hours for lights and passes were altered, and, during the year 1896, no less than 3,246 persons were fined or imprisoned. These figures show that under the regulations 9 persons were fined or imprisoned every day. It seems to me that the time has arrived when His Excellency might try the experiment of suspending the passes for a time and of seeing what the result will be. I can only trust that the Chinese will so use this concession made by His Excellency that there will be no need to revive these passes for some time to come.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I am sure that the passing of this law will give satisfaction to the Chinese community. I may point out that at the present time there are fourteen or fifteen thousand quarterly passes issued every quarter by the Captain Superintendent of Police and the number is so large that it is impossible to exercise sufficient check over all the passes issued. With these few remarks I beg to second the second reading of the Bill.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee and Bill passed through all its stages.

THE STOWAWAYS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the punishment of stowaways arriving in this colony. I think it will not be necessary for me to say anything on the Bill beyond reading the objects and reasons. The vagrancy law renders those who bring destitute people to this colony liable, in certain cases, to repay the expense thereby incurred by the colony in the maintenance, etc., of such people. Where passage money or even part passage money has been paid for such destitutes, or where, out of compassion, a passage has been given, it is obviously just that those who knowingly import into the colony persons who have no means of subsistence should not be allowed to put the community to the cost of maintaining them. Where, however, such destitutes come as stowaways, against the consent of those in charge of the ship, and no passage money or compensation is paid, it seems fair that means should be provided by which the stowaway can be punished and the master of the ship be protected. This Ordinance is intended to provide such means. The Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, section 237, does not apply to foreign ships, and stowaways are brought to Hongkong in foreign ships as well as in British ships. The River Steamers Ordinance (No. 18 of 1895) and Ordinance 22 of 1890 have provided efficacious remedies in cases coming within their respective limits, and it is trusted that the present Ordinance will prove as useful, in cases where passages have been unlawfully obtained, as Ordinance 22 of 1890 has been in preventing attempts by Chinese to obtain such passages from Hongkong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee and the Bill passed through all its stages.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Or-

dinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the protection of women and girls. If hon. members will refer to the table of Ordinances in the second schedule they will observe that there are no less than six Ordinances repealed by this Ordinance. It is certainly very undesirable when one has to refer to the law on a given subject that one should be obliged to refer to a great many different Ordinances to ascertain what the law is. Unfortunately in the progress of time Ordinances require amendment, so it is impossible sometimes to get the whole law on a subject in one Ordinance. It was thought that the time had come when the Ordinances on this subject should be consolidated and put into one with a few amendments and some additional sections taken from the Imperial Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885. I may say that unofficially I sent a draft of this Ordinance to the Chief Justice and he, with the kindness he always shows, looked through it and made various suggestions to me. I have adopted those suggestion and I think they make the Ordinance better than it was before.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he did not propose to ask for the third reading until the next meeting of Council, and it was possible he might wish to make one slight amendment which he had mentioned in the Committee stage, in which case the Bill might be re-committed. He would consider the matter before next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned until next Monday week.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided, and all the members were present.

VOTES RECOMMENDED.

The following votes were recommended:—

A sum of \$187 in aid of the vote "Repairs to Health Officer's launch."

A sum of \$150 in aid of the vote "Post mortem examinations, and medical attendance at inquests."

A sum of \$1,550 in aid of the vote for Post Office "Incidental Expenses."

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

THE NEW SANITARY BY-LAWS.

MEETING OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

On the 13th inst. a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held at the offices to consider the amendments made by the Legislative Council in the by-laws made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon) presided and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. W. Chatham (Acting Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read a letter from the Colonial Secretary forwarding the amended by-laws for the consideration of the Board.

The first by-law mentioned was No. 5, which was struck out and referred to the Insanitary Properties Commission.

Mr. EDE—By-law 5 has passed out of our hands and we have nothing to say about it. It has not been passed, but referred to somebody else.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—We gave very earnest consideration to this by-law, and it is one which was considered by the experts on this Board—by experts I mean our late President, Mr. Cooper, and the Medical Officer of Health, who are supposed to know more about the subject than anybody else—and the Board, on their recommendation and by their advice, passed the by-law. Therefore, I think that the Council having dealt with the by-laws and they having been referred to us by His Excellency the Governor, we have nothing further to say about by-law No. 5. I

think that in sending back the by-laws we should express our regret that by-law No. 5 has not been passed and say we hope that no delay will occur in giving it the force of the law.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—And we might also point out the urgent importance of it with respect to the sanitary condition of the colony and hope there will be no delay in the consideration of the by-law. The point is to get something like that passed without delay.

Mr. EDE said he did not know what the official objection to by-law No. 5 was, but it was only right that the Board should have the power to prevent the obstruction of the ventilation of buildings by projections extending out a considerable width, as otherwise sun blinds would be put up so as to meet in the middle of the street and then there would be no light at all.

The Board then proceeded to consider a small amendment made in by-law 10 of the amended by-laws.

The amendment was approved.

In regard to this by-law the Government wished the Board to state what was, in its opinion, "reasonable notice" to be given to occupiers or owners of domestic buildings before such buildings could be entered and inspected by the Inspectors of Nuisances.

The PRESIDENT said this subject was discussed once before and three hours was considered a reasonable notice.

Mr. EDE understood that the Medical Officer of Health was going to arrange for an Inspector of Nuisances to go to a man's premises and tell him he was going to make an inspection. If the man did not object the inspection would be made at once, but if there was an objection the Inspector would have to give reasonable notice.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said the resolution he would propose was as follows:—"That the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Sanitary Board is of opinion that in any case in which the occupiers or owners of any building or curtilage offered any objection whatever to the entry for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition thereof a notice of not less than two hours should be given to the said occupiers or owners." Already under the Medical Officer of Health Ordinance, 9 of 1895, section 2, the Medical Officer of Health had power to enter premises between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. and make an inspection, and provided the occupants offered any reasonable objection there-to the Medical Officer of Health had to give two hours' notice to the occupiers.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE thought two hours' notice was quite enough.

Mr. EDE said he agreed, but he should like the amended by-law so worded that an officer of the Board could go in at once if the occupants gave him permission.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said the by-law could not be altered in that way, as section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, under which the by-laws were made, distinctly said that the officers shall enter upon giving reasonable notice. The Board could not add "with the permission of the occupier." But if the occupier said "Come in," it was only reasonable that the Inspector would go in. The by-law would not preclude the immediate entry of the Inspector with permission.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE suggested that the Board should write to the Colonial Secretary in the terms of the resolution proposed by the Medical Officer of Health. A man ought to be able to go into premises on getting permission.

Mr. EDE thought that if in an action an Inspector stated that he entered on getting permission he would lose his case, as there was nothing in the by-law which allowed him to do that.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE contended that there was nothing to prevent a man giving permission to an Inspector to enter his house if he liked.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said the Board was simply asked for an expression of opinion on the point.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said the work would be quadrupled if the Inspector always had to give two hours' notice.

Mr. EDE agreed. It was exactly that difficulty which he wished to prevent. He wanted to be quite sure that the Board would not be inter-

fered with if an Inspector entered premises on being given permission.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded the resolution of Dr. Clark and it was unanimously carried.

The second amendment in this by-law was also agreed to, as was also the amendment in No. 14 of the amended by-laws.

The amendment in by-law 25 of the amended by-laws was then considered. The amendment gave power to only the Medical Officer of Health or to such officer as may be appointed by the Board with the approval of the Governor to take steps to have furniture and goods removed from insanitary dwellings.

Mr. EDE—When these by-laws came before us first I had objections to this sort of power being conferred upon subordinate officers.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—In the Legislative Council the other day no notice whatever was taken of the words "specially authorized in writing by the said Board." The Council took it to mean that any officer could go and do all these things. That is not so. It is only "any officer of the Board specially authorised in writing," and it was distinctly understood that the Board would exercise considerable discrimination in selecting its officers. Of course the difficulty is to get the men. If we had as much plague as we had last year you would require two men, besides Dr. Clark, in the city here, one man for the villages of Aberdeen, Shaokwan, &c., and another man for the Kowloon peninsula—four men in addition to Dr. Clark.

Mr. EDE—The amendment is only a verbal alteration, in my opinion. All we have got to do is to get the approval of the Governor when we appoint officers to have power to remove cocklofts, and the whole thing will be done. They do not want the Board to make the appointments without the approval of the Governor.

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—It is a sort of additional assurance to the public generally. The Governor—

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Yes, I am not talking of the Governor. That would be all right. The Governor, I am sure, would sanction any properly qualified man that the Board had confidence in and recommended, but, as far as one can gather from the newspaper report of what occurred in the Legislative Council, the members would not be satisfied with any subordinate officer that the Board put forward. For instance, they objected to the Chief Inspector of Nuisances. If you search the whole of Hongkong throughout its length and breadth you probably would not find a better or more trustworthy officer than the Chief Inspector of Nuisances. He is a man who speaks Chinese very well; he has had twenty years' experience, and he is universally respected and liked by the Chinese community. If you are going to eliminate a man simply because he is a subordinate officer of the Board I do not see how you are going to get satisfactory men to do the work.

Mr. EDE—All we should have to do would be to appoint that man and get the approval of the Governor. I think we had better pass the amendment.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I have no objection to the amendment as it stands, but I think we had better select some officers now, as the plague may occur now, or to-morrow, or any day, and we can send their names to the Governor, so that we can have everything cut and dried.

Mr. EDE—Let us have the by-law passed and then we can select the officers.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said it was unnecessary to have in the by-law "any officer specially authorised by the said Board." That special authority was at the present time in the possession of the Inspectors of Nuisances, and they had power to enter premises whether there was plague or not. A man can do certain work when there is no epidemic and, according to this by-law, he had to get special authority when there was an epidemic. He would be simply doing his ordinary duty. The point had been overlooked.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE thought it would be better to retain the words.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—It would only be a waste of time.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I agree with what you said and I think that everybody in the Legislative Council the other day entirely overlooked these words: 'There is no reference to it in the report.'

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH moved that the words "specially authorised in writing by the said Board under the hand of its Secretary" be deleted.

The PRESIDENT said that if there was another alteration the by-laws would be again referred to the Attorney-General.

The SECRETARY said the Board could easily get the names written out on the morrow and the whole thing would be ready.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE pointed out that the Board might have to get the assistance of say forty or fifty soldiers and police. If one man was taken sick there would have to be a special meeting of the Board in order to give authority to his successor.

Mr. EDE seconded Dr. Clark's resolution.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE said the by-law as it stood would certainly be remarkable.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The other amendments in the by-law were agreed to.

It was then resolved to forward the by-laws with the suggestions to the Government.

SUPREME COURT.

16th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

INJUNCTION.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., applied on behalf of Mr. J. F. Reece, solicitor, for an interim injunction restraining the owners of a shop in Queen's Road from removing a staircase, or allowing their servants to occupy it.

The application was heard *ex parte*.

It was explained that Mr. Reece occupied an office above the shop and the stairs leading to it were immediately to the side of the shop. The defendants wished to pull down the stairs in order to increase the size of the shop and compel Mr. Reece to go through the shop and up another set of stairs in order to get to his office. Plaintiff refused to do this, as he occupied his office on a lease, and he therefore applied for an injunction restraining the defendants from taking the action they proposed.

His Lordship granted an interim injunction.

17th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

FLETCHER AND CO. v. MRS. HANS.

Plaintiffs, who are chemists and druggists in Queen's Road, brought an action against Mrs. Hans, of the Grand Hotel, to recover \$100, being balance due for the price of an artificial leg supplied on the order of the defendant.

Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. J. F. Reece represented the defendant.

Mr. Hastings explained that at the beginning of October, 1895, defendant went personally to the plaintiffs and asked for an estimate for an artificial limb for a barmaid in her employ. On the following day the plaintiffs gave her the estimate, which was \$200, and on the 15th October defendant went to the shop and ordered the limb. Plaintiffs wrote home for it on the same day and it arrived in Hongkong on the 27th February, 1896, when it was delivered to the defendant, who afterwards went to plaintiff's shop and paid \$80 on account. Some days afterwards defendant's assistant went to the shop and asked plaintiffs if they would object to giving a receipt in the name of Mrs. Derrell, the barmaid, instead of in the name of the defendant. Plaintiff did not object and a new receipt was made out in the name of Mrs. Derrell, the old receipt being torn up. On the 14th March defendant's assistant paid a

further instalment of \$10 and on the 22nd April another sum of \$10 was paid, the receipts being given in the name of Mrs. Derrell, although the defendant's name was retained in the ledger. Bills were sent in monthly for the balance, and no objection was raised until the 4th March this year, when defendant wrote a letter stating that Mrs. Derrell left the hotel several months ago and enquiries about her could be made at the Italian Convent, Wanchai. In reply plaintiffs wrote to the effect that defendant herself was responsible for the balance of \$100, but she refused to pay the money.

Evidence was then called in support of this statement.

The defence was that there had been no contract between the plaintiffs and Mrs. Hans, as Mrs. Hans did not order the leg. Mrs. Derrell was now dead and Mr. Reece contended that as the plaintiffs were unable to get the balance from her they sought to make the defendant liable for a debt which she had not incurred.

The defendant said she did not pay any money to Fletcher and Co. or receive a receipt in her name.

Judgment was given for the plaintiffs.

18th May.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Attorney-General said that Mr. Robinson, who had been engaged to defend the man charged with wilfully setting fire to a shop in Jervois Street, was indisposed and would not be able to get out for three or four days.

This case was consequently fixed for next Thursday.

Mr. Slade mentioned that he defended in two cases and asked if the Attorney-General would take the second in order first.

The Attorney-General said he was expected to come to the court and take any case just at the moment when counsel for the defence wished him. It was impossible for him to be ready with every case and he could not oblige counsel in this particular instance as there were no other cases left.

Mr. Slade again pressed for the bribery case to be taken first as he was not fully instructed in the other.

Just as the breeze was beginning to blow a little harder it was discovered that the first case to be taken was undefended and that therefore there was no need for Mr. Slade to make the application. With this discovery the business of the court was quietly proceeded with.

THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG GIRLS.

Wong Sy Su, a woman, was charged with taking part in bringing into the colony for the purpose of prostitution a fourteen year old girl and also with selling her for the purpose of prostitution. Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted.

The defendant pleaded not guilty and the following jurymen were sworn—Messrs. M. H. Michael, P. M. N. da Silva, Chan Yum, C. Rustonjee, G. H. Potts, R. M. Mehta, W. F. Gardner.

The jury unanimously found the prisoner guilty.

Another woman named Ma Fung was then charged with purchasing the girl for the purpose of prostitution.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted and M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Mouney) defended.

The jurymen were—Messrs. N. Mumford, E. J. Figueroa, A. D. Death, A. O. Gutierrez, F. Korn, S. Rustonjee, W. H. Purcell.

The prisoner was found guilty.

The first prisoner was then brought back and placed with the other and both were sent to gaol for twelve months with hard labour.

It is stated that the Korean Government has granted to the German firm of E. Meyer & Co., of Chemulpo, a concession for the working of mines in Korea.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

Captain Clarke, of the *Honam*, returned on Friday afternoon from Wuchowfu, where he has been for the past month making arrangements in the interests of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company for traffic up the West River, which will be opened on Friday, the 4th June. Captain Clarke, in the course of an interview with a representative of this paper, spoke most hopefully of the commercial prospects. During his trip he experienced no trouble whatever with the Chinese officials, who afforded him every facility for carrying out his mission. He was of opinion that in a short time the West River traffic would reach large proportions and that there would be a speedy advance in trade generally. The fact that Samshui, which is at the junction of the North and West Rivers, will be opened as a treaty port, in addition to Kong-kun, a calling station, is most favourable for the extension of trade, and the preparations which were being made by the steamboat companies would be found to be well suited for the requirements of trade. The Customs officers seemed to be eager for the opening day to arrive and their arrangements have all been practically settled. The Commissioner is Mr. James Acheson, and it is considered probable that Mr. Jamieson will go to Wuchowfu as Consul. There is one point that has not yet been finally adjusted and that is the buoying of a proper river channel for the boats. Unless this channel is marked out it will be rather risky to steam up the river. There are many rocks about, and as the currents are so strong a boat striking a rock would probably roll over, especially during the winter months, when the water is low. The *Tweed*, which is surveying the river, arrived at Wuchowfu last Thursday, with Consul Fraser on board. In regard to the inhabitants Captain Clarke said he had very little difficulty with them. For a few days he heard the customary "foreign devil" muttered amongst the poor classes, and he and Mr. Watt, who represents Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., at once reported the matter to the Prefect and asked for his intervention. The Prefect, to his credit be it said, immediately issued a proclamation, which was posted all round the town, calling upon the people to show every respect to foreigners and not to use bad language towards them. The proclamation stated that foreigners were there by treaty right and on no account were they to be interfered with. This document had the desired effect and not a single disrespectful remark was heard by Captain Clarke after it was issued. Captain Clarke will return to Wuchowfu early this week.

THE NAVY AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

THE ASSISTANT COLONIAL SECRETARY TO
THE JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
17th May, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit for the information and consideration of the Jubilee Committee the enclosed copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Buller, K.C.B., regarding the naval arrangements in connection with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's reign.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. G. T. BUCKLE.

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The Honorary Secretary Jubilee Committee.

Alacrity, at Shanghai,
9th May, 1897.

Sir,—If the exigencies of the service permit of it I propose that Her Majesty's ships *Undaunted*, *Humber*, *Rattler*, and *Phoenix* shall be present at Hongkong on the 22nd June, 1897, to assist in the celebration of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, and senior officers have been ordered by me to co-operate with the local authorities in the arrangements for the celebration.—I have, etc.,

ALEXANDER BULLER,
Vice-Admiral.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson,
K.C.M.G., etc., etc., Governor and
Commander-in-Chief, Hongkong.

THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION.**HARBOUR ILLUMINATION AND BOAT PROCESSION.**

A meeting of European and Chinese steam launch owners was held on Wednesday (12th inst.) at the City Hall under the auspices of the Jubilee Celebration Committee for the purpose of considering the proposed procession of steam launches in the Harbour. Mr. Wodehouse was present and explained the scope of the idea and all present promised to assist.

The total number of launches promised was forty-four, but this number does not include all that will probably be forthcoming, as some of the leading firms were not represented at the meeting.

With a view to the proper management of the procession during its progress, it was unanimously agreed that Com. Rumsey should be invited to act as Commodore of the Fleet, and a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. Ritchie, Gordon, Captain G. C. Anderson, and Cheung T'seng Chi was appointed to assist the Commodore. The procession will be held either on the 22nd June or the 23rd, and the route will include the whole length of the Harbour from Kennedytown to Murray Pier.

It was decided that should either of the days named be unfavourable it will be postponed to some other day, but will not be abandoned indefinitely. It was decided that everything of a permanent nature, such as trophies, mottoes, devices, etc., shall be in readiness for the 22nd June, including the purchase of lanterns.

The route will be marked by two lines of illuminated cargo-boats.

Subject to the general understanding that the character of the illuminations will be Japanese, each launch, whether owned by Europeans or Chinese, will be illuminated by their owners as they please.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contributions, viz:—

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	\$2,500
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	1,500
David Sassoon Sons & Co.	1,000
E. D. Sassoon & Co.	1,000
Butterfield & Swire	1,000
Siemens & Co.	1,000
Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	1,000
Melchers & Co.	1,000
Shewan, Tomes & Co.	1,000
Bellics & Co.	1,000
Carlowitz & Co.	1,000
Reiss & Co.	1,000
Holliday, Wise & Co.	1,000
Meyer & Co.	1,000
Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	1,000
European Staff, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank (Hongkong)	870
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	750
Banque de l'Indo-Chine	500
Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co.	500
Chater and Mody	500
Dodwell, Carlill & Co.	500
Douglas Lapraik & Co.	500
Lane, Crawford & Co.	500
Gilman & Co.	500
Bradley & Co.	500
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.	500
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	500
Mitsui Bussan Kaisha	500
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited	500
Office Staff, Jardine, Matheson & Co.	350
Hongkong	300
Hongkong Daily Press	300
Benjamin, Kelly and Potts	300
S. J. David & Co.	300
Grossmann & Co.	250
D. Gillies	250
Reuter, Brockelmann & Co.	250
Sperry Flour Co.	250
Victor H. Deacon	250
Wm. Meyerink & Co.	250
Harling, Buschmann & Menzell	250
M. S. Sassoon & Co.	250
Sander & Co.	250
Lauts, Wegener & Co.	250
Stotterfoht & Hagan	250
Radecker & Co.	250

Gibb, Livingston & Co.	250
H. Skott & Co.	250
Wieler & Co.	250
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.	250
Canton Insurance Office	250
China Traders' Insurance Co.	250
Union Insurance Society of Canton	250
China Sugar Refining Co.	250
China Fire Insurance Co.	250
Messageries Maritimes, Hongkong	250
China & Manila S. S. Co.	250
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co.	250
W. G. Humphreys & Co.	200
John D. Hutchison & Co.	200
Kruse & Co.	200
F. Blackhead & Co.	200
Scheele & Co.	200
China Mail	200
Hongkong Telegraph	200
Dorabjee Nowrojee	200
MacEwen, Frickel & Co.	150
Chs. J. Gaupp & Co.	150
Louisa and Atwell Coxon	150
Anton & Stewart	150
Sir John Carrington	100
Brandao & Co.	100
W. R. Loxley	100
Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.	100
A. R. Marty & Co.	100
Jebson & Co.	100
Linstead & Davis	100
S. S. Kirch & Co.	100
Madar & Farmer	100
Heuermann, Herbst & Co.	100
G. P. Lammert	50
G. Falconer & Co.	50
J. Ullmann & Co.	50
Levy Hermanos	50
John Hastings	50
Leigh & Orange	50
Wm. Powell & Co.	50
Cottam & Co.	25
Mrs. S. Stockhausen	25
R. S. Woonwalla & Co.	25

\$35,495

THE CHINESE AND THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

A meeting of the Chinese residents was held at the Tung Wa Hospital on Thursday afternoon to consider the arrangements to be made for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee. Mr. Liu Taz-shan was voted to the chair and the following resolutions were adopted for submission to H.E. the Governor:—

1.—On the nights of the 22nd and 23rd June a display of fireworks to be given at two suitable points, one at West Point and the other in the Central District. The display to continue from 8 p.m. to 12 30 p.m. on both nights.

2.—A large mat shed to be erected at West Point for a flower-show.

3.—A show of curios and pictures to be held at the City Hall.

4.—The Chinese theatres to be open the whole night through on both dates.

5.—Stalls for the sale of food and miscellaneous articles to be allowed in Jervois Street and Winglok Street throughout both nights.

6.—House-to-house visitations to be suspended for five days before and five days after the celebration.

7.—If any cases of plague occur during the ten days mentioned in the preceding resolution, the patients to be allowed to go to the Tung Wa Hospital for treatment.

8.—Each street at its own discretion to have bands of music to play from the 22nd to 25th June.

10.—If any street wishes to erect triumphal arches it shall be allowed to commence the work ten days previous to the date of the celebration without asking official permission.

A meeting of the Committee appointed by the Chinese community to carry out the arrangements for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen was held at the Tung Wa Hospital on Friday, Mr. Lui Taz-shan in the chair.

Mr. Fung Wa-chuen, the Secretary, read the following letter received from the Registrar-General:—

"Registrar-General's Office,
"Hongkong, 14th May, 1897.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter dated the

13th inst., I have the honour to forward to you the following answers to the points raised:—

"1.—Fireworks will be arranged for as is suggested.

"2.—The Flower Show will be organised as proposed.

"3.—The City Hall has been already borrowed for the purpose of holding the exhibition of curios and pictures.

"4.—Permission will be granted to hold theatricals day and night on the 22nd and 23rd June.

"5.—The Captain Superintendent of Police has been instructed to allow Jervois Street and Winglok Street to be used for the sale of curios on the 22nd and 23rd June.

"8.—Music and singing will be permitted generally on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th June.

"9.—As to night passes, an Ordinance abolishing night passes in ordinary times is now before the Legislative Council and will be passed before the Jubilee celebration.

"10.—Every facility will be accorded for the erection of arches, music stands, &c.

"With regard to points Nos. 6 and 7, H.E. the Governor has already expressed his views in Council, from which you no doubt understand that the question of house-to-house visitation has received his careful consideration, and that such visitation will only be carried out by officers especially selected for the purpose, who will be instructed to exercise their duties with every caution.

"As to plague, I trust that Hongkong will not be visited by it this year, so that no steps in connection with it need be anticipated.—I have, &c.,

"J. H. STEWART LOCKHART."

The following additional resolutions were passed for submission to the Governor:—

1.—That the firing of crackers be allowed throughout the colony on the days of the celebration.

2.—That stalls for the sale of food and miscellaneous articles be allowed in Bonham Strand as well as in the streets previously mentioned.

3.—That no limit be placed on the number of persons living in each house during the days of the celebration.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD FINED \$25.

At the Police Court on the 13th inst., before Mr. H. E. Wodehouse, the Hon. T. H. Whitehead was summoned for riding his pony on the footpath in Queen's Road Central.

P. C. Finlay said—At 7.15 p.m. on the 8th inst. I saw the defendant riding a pony under the verandah in Queen's Road Central. He went under the verandah at the corner of Duddell Street and went as far as the Hongkong Club. I hurried along to meet him at the other end, but the pony went so fast that I could not keep up with him. There were pedestrians on the pavement at the time.

The Magistrate—Was the pony going at a gallop or a trot or walking?

Witness—The pony was going at a slow canter.

The Magistrate—Was there any reason for the defendant going on the pavement?

Witness—None whatever. It is entirely against the law to take a pony on the footpath.

The Magistrate (to the defendant)—What is your defence?

The defendant—I have no defence; I plead guilty. If I may I should like to make an explanation.

The Magistrate—The explanation will be your defence, then.

The defendant—The explanation is this, that there was a perfect deluge of rain coming down at the time and as I live at the Peak and had no change of clothing down below I did not like to run the risk of getting thoroughly drenched to the skin. I went under the verandah at the National Bank and walked quietly along to Dakin's Dispensary, where my maffoo was waiting. I then handed my pony over to him and thus saved myself from getting drenched to the skin, as would have been the case if I had gone along the middle of Queen's Road. Although it is no justification, I must confess that I was totally ignorant that I was infringing any law or regulation in going under the verandah; otherwise I would not have done so.

The Magistrate (to the witness)—Did the fact of the pony being on the pavement have the effect of putting people into the street?

Witness—I could not say they were put into the street, but they had to go into the doorways when they saw the pony coming along.

The Magistrate—\$25.

The defendant—Will you allow me to send the money up?

The Magistrate—Oh, of course.

The defendant thereupon left the court.

DEFENCE WORKS AT HONGKONG.

The following despatch from the Secretary of State was laid before the Legislative Council on Monday:—

Downing Street, 30th March, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that since the construction of the Defence Works at Hongkong, it has been found necessary at all stations to provide a more efficient defence against torpedo craft, and it is now proposed to make the necessary change of armament.

2.—The estimated cost of such armament, including guns, mountings, &c., is £28,500; and the total estimated cost of the necessary works in connection with the new armament is £8,230; this amount being made up as follows:—

Emplacements, &c., at Stone-cutters' £1,900, Emplacements at Belcher's Point £4,000, Platforms, Magazines, &c., at Lyemun £1,500, and Storage for six Machine Guns for general defence £830.

3.—Following the precedent in regard to the cost of the existing Works and Armament, Her Majesty's Government propose that the cost of this new armament shall be borne by the Imperial Government, and the cost of the works by the Colonial Government; and I trust that the Legislative Council will agree that this is a fair and reasonable arrangement.

The expenditure might be spread over two years, about £4,000 being provided before 31st March, 1898, and the remainder before 31st March, 1899. I am assured by the Secretary of State for War that the possibility of utilising the existing works as much as practicable will be carefully considered and that every endeavour will be made to keep down the cost of the works.

I have to add that there are various new services of the nature of Barracks or for the completion of existing defences, which will have to be executed at Hongkong; but as these were not included in the Barrack Scheme already entered into with the Colonial Government, it is not now proposed to make any claim upon the colony in respect of these services, which will, it is estimated, cost some £11,500.—I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR 1896.

Mr. Cooper, in his report for 1896 says:—“As this is probably the last annual report that I shall have the honour of submitting to you, I have, in the hope that such information may be of use to my successor, included various tables, references, and opinions that under ordinary circumstances would be beyond the scope of such a report.”

The report covers sixteen closely printed foolscap pages without the appendices. We make the following extracts from it:—

Government Offices.—In a report to the Government Office Committee, I pointed out the present unsatisfactory condition of the accommodation available for Government Departments. The present accommodation is inadequate to meet the present requirements, and the condition of the buildings in many instances is such that, in the course of a few years, it is anticipated considerable works of reconstruction will be necessary.

Markets.—The question of improved market accommodation, both in the City of Victoria and the villages, is one requiring urgent consideration. Attention has been repeatedly drawn to the condition of the Western and Saiyingpoon Markets, which require reconstruction, and to the inadequate accommodation provided by the present market at Shaukiwan. Plans and estimates have been prepared for the erection of a new market at Saiyingpoon on the present site, and for the extension of the

market at Shaukiwan but I regret to say that the financial position of the Colony does not apparently admit of these works being proceeded with at present. As regards the Western Market, its reconstruction should, if possible, be postponed pending the erection of the new Harbour Office. A considerable increase in the present market accommodation in this district is required, and the project for a new market should include the erection of buildings on the present site and also on the site of the existing Harbour Office. The question of reserving the site on the Reclamation opposite the Central Market for the erection of a fish market deserves consideration.

Police Stations.—These have been maintained in a satisfactory state of repair as far as their age admits. In the City of Victoria, Stations number 7 in the Western District and number 2 in the Eastern District, however, require reconstruction, and increased accommodation is required in these stations and at No. 5. A new station is required at Taitam and one is also required at Shek O.

Hospitals.—The buildings are in a satisfactory state of repair, and though the accommodation at the Government Civil Hospital is insufficient to meet the increasing requirements of the colony the site is now built over to such an extent that no further buildings should be erected upon it. Land is however available for extensions in a Southerly direction between the Bonham and Richmond Roads. Laundry accommodation is urgently required in connection with the hospitals and a disinfecting station should be established at Kennedytown.

Gaol.—The Gaol buildings have been maintained in a satisfactory state of repair, but notwithstanding the addition recently carried out on the west side of Old Bailey, the accommodation falls short of that required. Projects are under consideration for the erection of Warders' Quarters and a new Gaol Hospital.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in Victoria.—Extensive repairs have been executed to the macadam surfaces of Queen's Road, Praya Central, Bonham Strand, Cleverly Street, Sharp Street, and Heard Street; also to the concrete surfaces of Zetland Street, Battery Path, and Garden Road. The surfaces of Kennedy, Bowen, and Wanchai Roads have been repaired with decomposed granite. The timber bridge, Hill Road, has been replaced by an iron and concrete structure.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges out of Victoria.—Considerable attention has been bestowed upon these roads and bridges. Cape D'Aguilar, Magazine Gap, Wanchai Gap, Mount Kellet, Pokfulam and Shaukiwan Roads; also Little Hongkong New Road and the roads at Aberdeen, have been thoroughly repaired. All the bridges have been examined and repaired where necessary. The bridge over the stream at Wongneichong Village has been reconstructed, brick arches replacing the old timber structure.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in Kowloon.—The principal streets in the villages of Yau-mat and Hung Hom have been surfaced with decomposed granite, and the roads and bridges throughout the Peninsula maintained in a satisfactory state of repair.

Maintenance of Water Works, City of Victoria and Hill District.—The total quantity of water supplied to the Hill District during the year was 12,494,000 gallons or at the rate of 20.5 gallons per head per diem. (Population 1,660 census 1897.)

In the Hill District, all water supplied is measured by meter in accordance with the Water Works Ordinance No. 6 of 1895. The introduction of meters has effected a diminution in the consumption of water, but the consumption still appears unnecessarily high, and when the scarcity of the water supply during the last three years and the cost of raising the water some 1,400 feet is considered, the importance of adopting every practicable means for securing economical use of water consistent with sanitary requirements is obvious.

PRAYA RECLAMATION WORKS.—GENERAL. This project includes the reclamation of the foreshore in front of the City of Victoria from Murray Road on the east to the western boundary of Marine Lot No. 188 on the west, as

described in a report by Mr. J. M. Price, late Surveyor General, dated June 1st, 1888.

The execution of this work was authorised by Ordinance No. 16 of 1889. The necessary plan having been deposited in the Land Office, a schedule containing a list of the lessees of the several lots of land and sections thereof and the approximate contribution required from each of them in respect of the cost of his portion of the reclamation was published in Government Notification No. 301 dated the 6th July, 1889.

A revised plan was deposited in the Land Office and a revised schedule published in Government Notification No. 530 dated the 19th December, 1891.

Certain difficulties having arisen as to the amounts to be paid in respect of the removal and re-erection of the wharves and piers disturbed by this project and the period for the payment of such amounts, the Praya Wharves and Piers Ordinance No. 7 of 1893 was enacted by His Excellency the Governor with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council on the 11th of April, 1893.

The table of compensation referred to in section 4 of that Ordinance was duly prepared by the valuers and published in Government Notification No. 384 dated the 28th October, 1893, and a list of persons to whom it is proposed to pay the respective sums mentioned in such table was published in Government Notification No. 429 dated the 22nd of November, 1893.

Prior to the commencement of the work the details of the project were referred to Messrs. Coode, Matthews & Coode, Civil Engineers, Westminster, who approved generally of the proposals made by the Colonial Government but strongly urged the importance of adopting some method to prevent the settlement of the rubble foundations after the wall was built and recommended that if the use of a steam roller was considered undesirable the rubble foundations should be carried up to a height allowing for the maximum settlement and then left probably for 12 months.

The weighting of the foundations by means of concrete blocks afterwards used in the lower portion of the wall was finally decided upon. The blocks exposed in the front of the wall being faced with granite ashlar. The subsidence of the rubble foundations experienced during the weighting has shown the necessity of the course adopted.

In 1889, Mr. Bowdler was appointed special engineer for this project under section 3, Ordinance No. 16 of 1889, and all work in connection with this project has been carried out under his immediate supervision.

In May, 1893, an influentially signed petition was presented to His Excellency the Governor urging the Government to introduce without delay an ordinance to suspend for a time the Praya Reclamation Ordinance.

Instructions were consequently received to suspend for the present all work in connection with sections not already commenced and to carefully consider how far the prayer of the petitioners could be granted and also how the various complications that must necessarily arise on the stoppage of a work of this magnitude including so many and varied interests could be best arranged.

The final decision that the course proposed by the petitioners was impracticable was not arrived at till July, 1893, when I received instructions to proceed with the completion of the work.

The interruption caused to the progress of the work by this temporary suspension was very much greater than what might at first sight seem to have been the case. As will be seen on reference to the annual reports of this department the amount of work done during 1893 fell far short of that executed during 1892, but this was not all, the preparation of contracts for the completion of the works being also suspended, the carefully worked out programme for the rapid following on, after the rubble foundations had been deposited, of the weighting, construction of the wall and filling was no longer applicable.

On the resumption of the work, rubble foundations were not ready for levelling and weighting; consequently, the diving apparatus and block setting plant could not be used as would have been the case had no interruption in the

progress occurred; and further for the last three years owing to the period it takes to level and weight the foundations, the apparatus and plant obtained for this purpose, on the assumption that when once commenced the work would be continuous to completion, have proved insufficient to meet the demands made upon them; hence it is that the rapid completion of the reclamation from Ice House Street to Pottinger Street has been rendered impracticable, and letters have been received from the very person who signed the petition in 1893 complaining of what they so strongly urged, viz., the suspension of the work.

Reconstruction of Government Piers.—Nam Pak Hong Pier, opposite the lower end of Wing Lok Street.—The progress of the work on this pier as well as the work on Section No. 3 was considerably delayed by the subsidence of the rubble stone foundations of the landing pier, landing steps and a portion of the sea wall, on a length of 113 feet. These foundations were brought up to the required height, trimmed and levelled, and upon which 844 eight foot weighting blocks containing 82,000 cubic feet and weighing about 5,004 tons were placed to compress and consolidate them before setting the concrete blocks and erecting the ashlar masonry of sea wall, landing steps &c., when on the evening of the 3rd July, suddenly and without warning, the whole subsided from 10 to 16 feet, the upper courses of weighting blocks sliding off the pile into deep water. The solid ground of the sea bottom at this spot is about 82 feet below the coping of the new sea wall; there being at low water spring tides about 40 feet of water and 30 feet of mud, consequently the taking up of the weighting blocks was a long and difficult work. This work was done departmentally, the whole of the divers, plant, pontoon crane, &c., were employed in raising the blocks and stacking them on the foundations of sea wall, Section No. 4, for weighting purposes. In repairing and making good the defective foundations 3,581 cubic yards of rubble stone were used, the upper surface and slopes were levelled and trimmed by the divers and the whole re-weighted. Six hundred and eight (608) eight foot blocks containing 58,368 cubic feet and weighing about 3,502 tons were used for that purpose, the whole being placed in position on the 21st November. The divers, coolies, plant, pontoon crane, &c., were employed 63 working days and 128 hours overtime in raising the weighting blocks, re-levelling and trimming the foundations and in replacing the weighting blocks in position on the new foundations where they will have to remain for five or six weeks before they can be removed to allow of the concrete blocks being permanently laid.

Pottinger Street Pier.—The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th courses of concrete blocks containing 13,122 cubic feet of cement concrete and granite ashlar facing have been set, the joints and joggles run in cement, the hearting containing 332 cubic yards of rubble stone hand packed and 287 cubic yards of sand filling to interstices has been brought up level with the upper surface of the fourth course of concrete blocks and the whole weighted and consolidated ready (as soon as the tides serve) to receive the ashlar masonry, &c., for the completion of the upper portions of the pier above the concrete blocks.

For weighting and consolidating the foundations of this pier 392 eight foot blocks containing 37,632 cubic feet and weighing about 2,258 tons were used. The whole has been executed departmentally.

Pedders Street, Western Pier and Return Wall.—The upper surface of the rubble stone foundations (4,265 superficial feet) has been levelled and formed, and a layer of cement concrete (2,576 superficial) 4 feet thick laid, forming a bed for the first course of concrete blocks. Portions of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd courses of concrete blocks containing 13,311 cubic feet have been set and the joints and joggles run in cement. A portion of the hearting containing 271 cubic yards of rubble stone hand packed and 242 cubic yards of sand filling to interstices has been brought up level with the upper surface of the third course of concrete blocks ready to receive the weighting

blocks. The whole has been executed departmentally.

Murray Road Pier.—The upper surface of the rubble stone foundations (4,083 superficial feet) has been levelled formed and covered with cement concrete 4 feet thick (3,218 superficial feet) forming a bed for the first course of concrete blocks. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th courses of concrete blocks containing 18,938 cubic feet have been set, the joints and joggles run in cement, the hearting containing 330 cubic yards of rubble stone hand packed and 137 cubic yards of sand filling to interstices has been brought up level with the upper side of the third course of concrete block; and the whole weighted and consolidated ready for the completion of the superstructure as soon as the tides serve.

For weighting and consolidating the foundations of this pier 431 eight foot blocks containing 41,406 cubic feet and weighing about 2,484 tons were used for that purpose. The whole has been executed departmentally.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT FOR 1896.

We make the following extracts from the report of the Registrar-General laid before the Legislative Council on the 17th May:—

REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$97,620.61 or \$4,699.61 more than that for the preceding year, notwithstanding that three items, viz.:—the rent of the cattle-shed, the rent of five houses in New Street, and the rent for the wooden huts on the Praya Reclamation at West Point, which brought in a revenue of \$2,889.00 in the year 1895, no longer appear. The chief increase, \$5,884.16, occurs under the head of Markets and of this \$5,277.69 are derived from the Central Market. The rent received from this building for the year was \$36,838.20. The revenue from boat licences also shows an increase of \$1,094.20. A small income is derived from fees for the issue to Chinese of certificates of identity for the purpose of entering the United States.

EXPENDITURE.

The actual expenditure in 1896 under personal emoluments, including exchange compensation and other charges, was \$15,263.14 as compared with \$18,585.13 in 1895, and \$22,489.84 in 1894.

PO LEUNG KUK INCORPORATION ORDINANCE WOMEN AND GIRLS' PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

Particulars regarding the work done during the year by the Po Leung Kuk Society are contained in the Society's Annual Report, which is published separately. The Committee acts in complete harmony with this office and its services towards the good work of rescuing women and restoring them to their homes remain indispensable.

The number of women and girls detained during the year under Part II. of Ordinance 11 of 1890 was 241. This is a large increase on the number detained in the previous year. The number of girls under the protection of the office under section 19 of the Ordinance is 57. 67 women and girls were reported to the Po Leung Kuk as having disappeared in Hongkong. Of these only 11 were recovered. A number of the women no doubt absconded, but among the 67 were 25 girls who disappeared and not having been found again were in all probability kidnapped. In my report for last year I referred to the large increase of "sly" brothels in the town and to the views held by the Chinese on the subject. The number has still further increased, much to the disgust of respectable Chinese, but no private individual will take the necessary steps to suppress the evil, by appearing as a prosecutor in Court, though any action taken by the Government would be welcomed.

EMIGRATION.

Only 8,686 female passengers were examined at the Emigration Office and permitted to proceed on their voyage, as compared with 11,008 in the previous year. The decrease is caused by quarantine regulations imposed during the plague.

Emigration of Chinese to the United States has been facilitated by the recognition by the Government of that country in the case of residents in Hongkong of certificates of identity signed by the Registrar-General as *prima facie* evidence of the right of the holders under the Laws and Treaties in force to enter the country. A fee of three dollars is charged for each certificate.

POPULATION.

The following is the estimate of the number of the population of the Colony for the 30th June:—British and Foreign community, 12,709; Chinese, 226,710; total 239,419. It is based on the preliminary returns of a census which was taken on the night of the 20th January, 1897. An estimate based on the increase of the population since the year 1857 is evidently not to be depended upon. One based on the number of animals slaughtered for food during the year, due regard being paid to the price, might lead to a closer approximation to the truth. According to this method the population at the end of last year was estimated at 236,000.

MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 71 as compared with 90 in 1895. Of these one was celebrated twice, so the actual number of marriages was 70. The number of marriages between Chinese in Victoria on the occasion of which permits to fire crackers were issued was 207 as against 194 in 1895.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS (ORDINANCE NO. 15 OF 1896.)

This Ordinance came into force on the 16th November, 1896. It is a great improvement on the original Ordinance No. 7 of 1872. In addition to the notification of deaths being rendered compulsory, the most important regulation is the prohibition of the removal, without a permit, of the dead bodies, if the cause of death has not been registered.

The births among the British and Foreign community were 255 compared with 232 in 1895, and the number of births registered as having occurred among the Chinese community was 978 as compared with 1,195. There were probably at least 537 unregistered births.

There were four prosecutions for neglect to report births within the specified time.

The number of deaths in the British and Foreign community was 253 as compared with 191 in 1895; among the Chinese 5,607 as compared with 5,209 in 1895. Of these 1,078 died from the plague.

217 of the deaths among the British and Foreign community and 3,681 among the Chinese were certified to by a registered medical practitioner or were the subject of a Coroner's inquest.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the death rate per 1,000 during the past six years:—

Estimated Population.						
	1891	1892	1893			
British and Foreign,	10,494	10,590	10,686			
Chinese,	214,320	221,072	228,038			
Total,	224,814	231,662	238,724			
	1894	1895	1896			
British and Foreign,	10,782	10,828	12,709			
Chinese,	235,224	237,670	226,710			
Total,	246,006	248,498	239,419			
Deaths.						
1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	
5,374	4,906	5,422	7,407	5,400	5,860	
Death-rate per 1,000.						
	1891	1892	1893			
British and Foreign,	18.20	17.37	17.97			
Chinese,	24.18	21.30	22.93			
Total, ..	23.90	21.18	22.71			
	1894	1895	1896			
British and Foreign,	23.28	17.64	18.91			
Chinese,	30.42	21.92	24.75			
Total,	30.11	22.73	24.48			

BURIALS.

Of the 5,607 Chinese who died during the year 4,428 were buried in the colony, the bodies of 149 were sent out of the colony, and 57 coffins were reported as being in the Tung Wa Hospital Mortuary awaiting interment or removal. 794 interments were made in the village cemeteries. The bodies of the remaining 179 were presumably removed from the colony. Under the new Births and Deaths Registration

Ordinance a permit must be obtained before a body can be sent out of the colony.

EXHUMATIONS.

76 permits were issued to exhume human remains for removal to China or for reburial in the colony.

HOSPITAL DEATHS.

The number of deaths in hospitals amounted to 2,970 or 38.74 per cent. of the total number of deaths registered during the year.

Table IV. *B* gives particulars regarding the Tung Wa Hospital. The number of patients under treatment during the year was 2,214 as compared with 2,840 in the year 1895 and 2,969 in the year 1893. Of these 1,290 were discharged and 792 died. The percentage of deaths to admissions during the year is 38.80. In the preceding year the percentage was 42.61.

The number of out-patients during the year was—

Males	84,217
Females	45,478

129,695

This number is less by 30,000 than that for the year 1895, and the diminution is no doubt due to the precautions necessitated by the plague.

GENERAL.

The subjects which have probably attracted greatest attention among the Chinese during the last year are the Light and Pass system, and the enquiry into the Tung Wa Hospital.

With regard to the Light and Pass system, a strong objection seems to exist among many Chinese residents to carrying a light at night after dark, as required by the holder of a quarterly pass. Quarterly passes are now issued to the extent of 14 or 15 thousand, and, as there is no means of detecting the transfer of these passes to persons who are not really the holders of them, there appears to be a danger of the pass becoming a protection for rather than a safeguard against persons who are on evil bent. In the opinion of many the time has now arrived when the pass system might be with advantage abolished in ordinary times and enforced only on occasions of an unusual nature.

The Tung Wa Hospital has been the subject of an enquiry by a Commission appointed by the Governor. All the members of the Commission were unanimously agreed that the Hospital has done good work in the past and that the Committee of Management elected yearly is deserving of great praise for the time and attention devoted to the charitable work of the Hospital. The Commissioners, however, in addition to other recommendations of a minor nature, recommended that a Chinese doctor, trained in Western medicine should reside permanently in the Hospital as Resident Surgeon and that the daily inspection by an officer of the Government Medical Department should be maintained. In accordance with the recommendations, of the Commission, Dr. Chung, formerly House Surgeon at the Alice Memorial Hospital, has been appointed Resident Surgeon, and Dr. Thomson Visiting Surgeon.

THE BOTANICAL AND AFFORESTATION DEPARTMENT.

The following are extracts from the report of Mr. C. Ford, Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, for 1896:—

BOTANIC GARDENS.

Typhoon.—The typhoon which swept over the Colony on the 29th July was the severest experienced here since the disastrous one of 1874. The gardens suffered very greatly by the loss and injury of trees and shrubs, which, together with the losses in 1894 from successive typhoons of that year, left traces which will take many years to recover from. The plant houses and other structures received but a small amount of damage, owing to timely and efficient precautions having been taken to secure movable parts in such a manner as secured their safety. Portions which were carried away were renewed in a more substantial manner. The glass-houses came out of the storm unscathed, with the exception of a few pieces of glass broken by material falling on them.

Many trees and shrubs were completely stripped of their foliage, but new growths of

branches and leaves were quickly made, and in some instances trees which flower usually only once a year produced a second crop of flowers on the new shoots.

Lawn Caterpillars.—These appeared again this year at about the usual time, but instead of using expensive liquids, which are troublesome in application, for the destruction of the pest I tried the experiment of daily rolling the grass, where the insects appeared, from about 3 p.m. until nightfall, that being the feeding time of the caterpillar. This was so far successful that very little injury was done to the lawn by the pest.

Workmen's Cottages.—The old buildings in Garden Road in which some of the workmen were housed, and in which tools, &c., were kept were condemned early in the year and a new building was sanctioned; this is situated on a new site close to the old buildings and its construction is considerably advanced.

Vegetable Garden.—The sudden demand for building sites to the eastward of the Botanic Gardens led me to recommend the removal of the vegetable garden which has existed in connection with this department for about 30 years to the site adjoining that which was used as a storage ground for composts, manures, and garden refuse. The recommendation was approved, a contract was made for the work, and its execution nearly completed when I received instructions to abolish the vegetable garden and make other arrangements for the storage of manure, &c., so that the whole of the land might be vacated. A saving in the cost of some labour has been effected by the abolition of this garden, but it will not be more than sufficient to defray the greatly increased cost of the transport of manure, and other new arrangements which have to be made for the gardens in consequence of the loss of this land.

Orchids and Ornamental Plants.—Those plants which are too tender to live or thrive through the cold and desiccated air of the winter season and the heavy rains and storms of the wet one, and which are housed, some during the whole and others during a part of the year, in glass-houses provided with artificial heat in winter continue to flourish, but many of them require larger and more suitable structures for their development and accommodation. The structures in use are situated in the nursery, which is the most convenient place for management and supervision, but the position is one rather inaccessible to visitors, and consequently not taken full advantage of by them. These structures are very suitable for the purposes they were designed for, i.e., the propagation and cultivation of plants in their early life, but artistic and roomy glass conservatories placed in an easily accessible part of the gardens and filled with nature's treasures would afford a delightful promenade, and would be a source of interest and instruction which would, no doubt, be much appreciated by visitors. The structures should be of such an artistic and imposing design that they themselves, as well as the plants within them, would be an attractive feature in the gardens. Their construction would be somewhat costly, but not beyond the means of the colony, and the outlay would probably meet with the general approval of the community.

Rainfall.—The rainfall for the year was 77.62 inches.

Correspondence.—Requests from different parts of the world for information become more numerous year by year. The information sought is both scientific and economic in relation to the flora and vegetable products of China. The economic is chiefly for commercial purposes, the applicants being merchants and others in trade. Whenever possible the required information is given.

Plant Sales.—The receipts for plants sold were \$843.75. The number of plants sold was 3,834, that is, 777 more than in 1895.

Loan of Plants.—The demand for the loan of plants for decoration was greater than in the preceding year. The receipts were \$177.30, an increase of \$49.30 over those of 1895. The number of plants lent was 3,434.

FORESTRY.

Planting.—The total number of trees of all kinds which were planted was 29,949. Plans were prepared for planting a larger number,

but owing to the partial failure of some of the nurseries of the man who contracted to supply trees for planting the plans could not be completed. A row of camphor trees was planted along the side of the mountain road from Shankiwan to Tytam-tuk. The length of this road is 3½ miles. Of the Japanese pine, *Pinus Thunbergii*, which succeeds better at higher and more exposed positions than where the ordinary pine thrives, about 2,000 were planted on the southern side of Wanchai Gap. About 1,000 of *Pinus densiflora*, another Japanese pine, were also planted in the same locality. Further supplies of the former were reared for planting this year. An indigenous tree found in the Happy Valley and Little Hongkong woods which has furnished seeds for sowing during the last few years has been entered in the returns as *Spondias Mangifera*, which it was supposed to be both by others and myself who had seen the tree in fruit only. About 16 years ago I found the male flowers on a dioecious tree in the Happy Valley woods which were sufficient to create an interest in it as they showed it to be a tree not hitherto recorded. In the early part of last year I instituted a search for the female flowers of the same tree and was fortunate in discovering them for the first time on the tree which had been supposed to be *Spondias Mangifera*. These flowers proved that the tree was a species of *Poupartia*, a genus of which only two species were hitherto known, one of them in Mauritius and the other in Rodriguez. Complete specimens were sent to Kew for further examination and the tree was there named by Mr. Hemsley *Poupartia Fordii*. The fruit, which resembles the Hog Plum, is edible, and is sought for by the natives, but it is not very palatable to others. In the Little Hongkong woods the tree is very conspicuous in winter by reason of its leaves being deciduous and its exposed branches having a whitish appearance.

Thinning of Plantations and Sale of Products.—The total number of trees cut out was a little less than in the previous year, but the gross receipts for forestry products was about 14 per cent. greater than in that year.

Protective Service.—Trees cut and stolen amounted to 467, not quite half those of the previous year. The number of convictions obtained by the forest guards was 70, and the amount of fines paid was \$118.50, the highest being \$25, and the lowest 50 cts., the latter being double the amount of the lowest fine in 1895.

Fires.—There were only 17 fires compared with 51 in the previous year; 11,760 trees were destroyed by them; 11,680 being destroyed by one fire at Tytam-tuk on December 27th. The great prevalence of fires at Tytam-tuk and its distance from any station which can render assistance in extinguishing fires led me to recommend the permanent stationing of forest guards at Tytam-tuk during the dry season and placing it in electric signalling communication with the Stanley Police Station, which His Excellency the Governor has approved, so that assistance can be more quickly brought to bear in extinguishing fires in that neighbourhood.

Typhoon.—The typhoon of July 29th destroyed many large trees in the streets and roads, and a very great number of young trees on the hills were forced into prostrate positions which employed an average of 27 coolies per day until the 5th of November, about three months, to place them upright again. The cost of this work was \$402.26. The violence of the storm was so great that the leaves on pine trees on very exposed slopes and ridges were killed, and a great quantity of trees of as much as ten years old died from the loss of their leaves.

Caterpillars.—This pest—*Eutricha punctata*—again appeared and operations for its destruction were carried on from February 27th to July 8th, during which time 15 tons 16 cwt. 2 qrs. of caterpillars were destroyed at a cost of \$736.46. The island of Hongkong was almost free of caterpillars, the pest having been driven back to the peninsula of Kowloon on the mainland. It appears likely that the continuance of caterpillars at Kowloon was partly caused by the flight of the moth from Chinese territory, where the Chinese take no steps for its destruction. What few caterpillars, cocoons, &c. remained after operations were suspended on July 8th were apparently

completely destroyed by the typhoon of July 29th, as I have not seen a single insect in any of its stages since that date. From this experience we may learn that the devastation wrought by violent storms has its good, as well as its bad, side. I continued making observations on the destructive action of parasites on the eggs of the moth, larvae, and pupae, and found that the parasites—wasps and flies—were more abundant, especially on the eggs, than in the previous year. The balance between the pest and its parasitic enemies seems to have been now restored and there appears a fair promise of the caterpillar not becoming epidemic again, at least during the present year.

THE HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The following reports were laid before the Legislative Council at its last meeting:—
THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING TO
H.E. THE GOVERNOR.

Headquarters,
Hongkong, 26th April.

Sir,—I have the honour to enclose the Commandant's report of the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1896-97.

2.—As Your Excellency is aware, I personally made the annual inspection of the Hongkong Field Battery and Maxim Gun Company on the 8th instant, and now have the honour to render my report on it.

(a) The turn-out of the men was good; their 7-pr. guns, maxims, arms, and equipment are well kept up and appear to be in serviceable condition.

(b) The officers know their drill sufficiently well for practical purposes and the men handle their guns exceedingly well, both on the uneven parade ground and the steep hill-sides of Hongkong.

3.—From personal observation I know that the shooting of the Field Battery and Maxim Gun Company is satisfactory, and that all ranks takes a considerable interest in it; but I have observed that time is often wasted and much ammunition expended in endeavours to "find the range"; this ought to be remedied by the use of range-finders at all practices at targets.

4.—I notice with approval in the Commandant's report that revolver practice for Officers, which was instituted last year, has been continued with satisfactory results.

5.—The annual Camp of Instruction at Stonecutters' Island has again been well attended, and the practical duties of outpost, reconnoitring, and field firing practised there must bear most beneficial results.

6.—The increase in the numerical strength of the Corps shows that an augmented interest is taken in volunteering. If sufficient men can be recruited, another Maxim Gun Company might be raised.

7.—The Chief Ordnance Officer will be directed to keep up a supply of Martini-Henry and Gun ammunition.

8.—In conclusion, I beg to observe that in Major Sir John Carrington the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has obtained a most efficient Commanding Officer.—I have the honour to be, sir, your Excellency's obedient servant,

W. BLACK,

Major-General.

THE COMMANDANT, HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS, TO THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL (A) AND CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, CHINA.

Volunteer Headquarters,
Hongkong, 17th April, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward herewith the documents as per margin connected with the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps for the season 1896-97 for the information of His Excellency the Major-General Commanding and for favour of transmission to His Excellency the Governor.

ESTABLISHMENT.

2.—A comparison of document No. 9 with the corresponding document for the training of 1895-96 shows that the total strength of the Corps is now 159 of all ranks as against 125 of all ranks at the former date. This is the greatest strength to which the Corps has yet

attained since its reorganization in 1893. During the season one member has died, one has been discharged, and sixteen have resigned. Of the resigning members eight have left the colony. Fifty-two new members have been enrolled. The number of the Field Battery is now 107, as compared with an establishment of 80 as fixed by the Regulations of the Corps. On the other hand, the number of the "A" Machine Gun Company is only 47, as compared with an establishment of 51 as fixed by the Regulations. It is hoped that during the ensuing season the "A" Company may be recruited up to its full strength, and that at least one more Company may be formed. It may be mentioned that the Corps possesses altogether 12 Maxim guns, sufficient for three Companies. It is, I believe, the opinion of competent Officers that machine gun fire will be found of considerable value in repelling a hostile attack on the colony.

3.—There have been various changes among the Officers of the Corps during the past season. In October, 1896, Major A. R. Pemberton, of the Rifle Brigade, who had been Acting Commandant from the 1st February, 1895, resigned the command on the departure of his regiment from the colony. The present Commandant was gazetted on the 14th November, 1896. This seems a fitting opportunity for me to express, on behalf of the members of the Corps, their high sense of Major Pemberton's very efficient and useful services during the period of his command.

4.—Surgeon-Captain J. Cantlie, M.B., has retired, and Supernumerary Surgeon-Lieutenant F. O. Stedman, M.D., has been brought on the establishment.

5.—In the Field Battery, Captain J. McCallum, who is absent on leave, and who, it is believed, is not likely to return to the colony, was placed on the supernumerary list, and Lieutenant A. Chapman was promoted Captain to command the Battery in his place. Sergeant W. K. Wylie was elected and gazetted to fill the vacancy among the Lieutenants thus created.

6.—In the "A" Machine Gun Co. Capt. C. M. Adamson and Lieutenants E. Osborne and A. McP. Marshall resigned their commissions, the former on account of absence from the colony and the latter two because of the pressure of other duties. Colour-Sergeant F. Maitland was elected and gazetted Lieutenant in place of Mr. Osborne. The other vacancies will shortly be filled.

DISCIPLINE, TRAINING, AND INSTRUCTION.

7.—The discipline of the Corps has, with a solitary exception, which was dealt with, been good throughout the season.

8.—The ordinary training and instruction of the Corps does not call for special remark. The usual drills and musketry practices have on the whole been well attended. Under this head the figures for the units severally are as follows:—

Field Battery—

72 have done over 40 drills.

9 have become efficient with less than 40 drills.

26 non-efficients.

107

"A" Machine Gun Company—

16 have done over 36 drills.

7 have become efficient with less than 36 drills.

24 non-efficients.

47

Of the 26 non-efficients in the case of the Field Battery, 2 are on the supernumerary list of Officers and are absent from the colony, 4 are absent on leave, 6 are absent from the colony without leave, 7 are recruits who have not had sufficient time to complete their drills, 1 has recently returned from leave, 1 is in hospital, and the remaining 5, although in the colony, have not completed the requisite number of drills.

In the case of the 24 non-efficients of the "A" Machine Gun Company, 6 are absent from the colony on leave, 7 are absent from the colony without leave, 5 are recruits who have not had sufficient time to complete their drills, and the remaining 6, although in the colony, have not completed the requisite number of drills.

9.—In October, 1896, a Camp of Instruction was held under canvas during a period of nine days on Stonecutters' Island. The use of the

Naval Range on the Island was at the same time lent by the Commodore in charge at Hongkong, and was largely used by recruits. The Camp was well attended, and the instruction afforded, consisting, besides the ordinary drills, of outpost duties, guards, reconnoitring, and field firing, was much appreciated all ranks. To the success of the Camp I attribute in great part the activity in recruiting which has existed during the latter part of the season. It is proposed to hold to Camp annually.

10.—On the 2nd February last a competition took place with 64-pounder guns at Stonecutters' Island. Six detachments engaged in the competition, using plugged shell. The range was 2,175 yards, and the target was moored between the battery and Green Island. Excellent practice was made by the detachments generally, the best results being secured by No. 1 detachment, commanded by Sergeant G. C. Hayward. A report on this competition was forwarded to His Excellency the Major-General Commanding on the 24th February last.

11.—On the 13th March last a competition, in which the two units of the Corps were independently engaged, took place for prizes, offered, in the case of the Field Battery, by Captain J. J. Francis and the Commandant, and, in the case of the "A" Machine Gun Company, by the Honourable T. H. Whitehead. The firing point was on an eminence near Wong-nei-Chong Gap, and the target, in the case of the Field Battery, was on the shore of Deep Water Bay, at a distance of about 1,700 yards, and, in the case of the "A" Machine Gun Company, in a ravine in the same direction, at a distance of about 1,100 yards.

The field Battery fired by sections, using common and shrapnel shell, and the "A" Machine Gun Company by single guns. Some good practice was made by both units. A report on this competition was forwarded to His Excellency the Major-General Commanding on the 15th March last.

12.—The revolver practice by the Officers and Staff Sergeants, which was instituted during the last season, has been continued during the present season with satisfactory results.

13.—The question of coolie draught for the guns is in the same position as at the time of the last annual report. In the case of an ordinary march out, which has taken place several times during the season, the members prefer to draw the guns themselves; in fact they display a strong repugnance to allowing this work to be done by coolies. During the season there have been no operations at a distance from headquarters for which coolie draught could be employed. It must be borne in mind with regard to this question that the finances of the Corps will not admit of coolies being regularly employed and trained for purposes of draught, and further that a sufficient number of coolies used to the drawing of loads can always be obtained when occasion requires. I am, however, informed that coolie draught for the guns has always proved slow and generally unsatisfactory.

SERVICES.

14.—I have pleasure in bringing to the notice of His Excellency the Major-General Commanding the zealous and efficient services rendered during the season by Captain L. A. C. Gordon, Royal Artillery, the Adjutant of the Corps. Captain Gordon not only shows great interest in his duties but performs them in such a manner as to secure the liking of all ranks. In particular, the Corps is much indebted to him for the skill and pains with which he organized and superintended the carrying out of the several gun competitions held during the season.

15.—The other Officers of the Corps have in every way set an excellent example to the non-commissioned officers and men serving under them. By their regular attendance at drills, their endeavours to procure recruits, and their devotion to duty generally they show their anxiety to promote the efficiency of the Corps. In short, I may say of them that a Commandant could not wish for better officers.

16.—Corps Quarter-Master Sergeant Watling and the Sergeant Instructors have been diligent and painstaking in the performance of their duties.

17.—The non-commissioned officers and men of the Corps have for the most part attended drills regularly and shown a soldier-like desire to make themselves efficient.

REGULATIONS.

18.—Soon after I was appointed Commandant I formed the opinion that the Regulations of the Corps stood in need of revision in several respects. On consideration, however, it appeared to be advisable that I should gain some experience of the working of the Corps before undertaking the re-drafting of them. Now that the training season has concluded, I propose to lose no time in framing and submitting for approval a draft set of regulations. Amongst other matters which will be dealt with in the draft will be the strength of the two units of the Corps, the number of drills qualifying for "efficiency," and the formation and constitution of a Volunteer Reserve.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

19.—The annual inspection of the Corps by His Excellency the Major-General Commandant took place on the 8th instant.

20.—A course of lectures on ambulance work, accompanied with stretcher drills, has recently been held by Surgeon-Lieutenant Stedman. Thirteen members joined the class.

21.—I have to request that the Chief Ordnance Officer, China, may be asked to keep up 30,000 rounds of Martini-Henry Carbine ball ammunition and the usual quantities of 7-pounder and 64-pounder R.M.L. gun ammunition for the use of the Corps, to be indented for as required on repayment. I have recently addressed a letter to His Excellency the Governor urging the desirability of provision being made for supplying ammunition for practice to the members of the Corps at a cheaper rate than that which now obtains, viz., \$4 per 100 rounds.

22.—A considerable proportion of the Martini-Henry Carbines belonging to the Corps are service-worn, and the question of replacing them with new and more efficient weapons will soon have to be considered.

23.—Requisitions for capitulation grant for efficiencies during the past season have been sent direct to the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer.

24.—It is gratifying to me to be able to record an apparent augmentation of interest on the part of the general public in the fortunes of the Corps, and I venture to hope that we shall see the fruit of this interest in the coming training season.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. W. CARRINGTON,
Major, Commandant,
Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

A. S. WATSON AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the General Manager for the year ending the 31st December, 1896, for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth annual ordinary general meeting of the Company (since its registration) to be held at the Hongkong Dispensary on Saturday, the 22nd May, at noon.

To the shareholders of A. S. Watson & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen.—I beg to lay before you a statement of the Company's business, with a balance sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1896.

The net profits of the Company for the twelve months under review, after paying all charges, including general management, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts, and with the addition of \$8,015.44 brought forward from last year, amount to \$77,674.48

From this there has been written off for depreciation of furniture, fittings, utensils of trade, and machinery 5,515.32

Leaving an available balance of \$72,159.15
We paid an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in November last, absorbing \$30,000.00

And I now propose:—

To pay a further dividend of 5 per cent. (making 10 per cent. for the year), which will absorb 30,000.00
To carry forward to 1897 account 12,159.15

\$72,159.15

The net profits of our business in the Philippine Islands for last year were considerably reduced owing to the operations of the rebellion against the Government, which stopped communication with our customers in the provinces and interfered with the arrangements of many of those who regularly buy from us in Manila.

The Company's accounts in London have been audited by Messrs. Hopps, Banhart and Warrington, chartered accountants, and those at the Head Office by Mr. Francis Maitland.

The business of the Company continues to be progressive and satisfactory.

JNO. D. HUMPHREYS,
General Manager.

By his Attorneys,

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.
Hongkong, 11th May, 1897.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital account	600,000.00	
Local and general liabilities in the East	32,177.86	
Local and general liabilities in London	24,218.66	
	56,396.52	
Mortgage on Inland Lot No. 19 and the building's thereon	70,000.00	
	126,396.52	
Bills payable, Hongkong, Manila, and London	75,897.73	
Permanent reserve fund	\$100,000.00	
Reserve fund to meet contingencies, or for the equalization of dividends	25,000.00	
	125,000.00	
Unclaimed dividends	2,325.10	
Security deposits from staff	13,450.00	
Profit and loss, forward from 1895	8,015.44	
Profit and loss, net balance, 1896	64,143.71	
	72,159.15	
Less interim dividend of 5 per cent. paid in November, 1896	30,000.00	
Less amount unclaimed	4,301.00	
	25,699.00	
	46,460.15	
	\$989,529.50	

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Stock in trade	544,894.37	
Building improvements and leaseholds	8,055.81	
Good debts due from customers	104,454.52	
Suspense account	1,830.83	
Cash in hand	\$ 7,950.91	
Cash at bankers	27,774.98	
Remittance in transit	6,594.51	
	42,320.40	
Fire insurance premia unexpired	2,833.23	
Good debts due from sundry debtors in London and Hongkong	13,928.81	
Branch adjustment account	9,216.67	
Investments in public companies— North China Insurance Co., Limited..... Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited.....	2,550.00	
Section A of Inland Lot No. 17 and the buildings thereon	64,389.49	
Inland Lot No. 19 and the buildings thereon	156,055.32	
Kowloon Inland Lots Nos. 549, 550, and 551	23,000.00	
Peak rural building Lot No. 80 and the building thereon	16,000.00	
	259,444.81	
	\$989,529.50	

Dr.	PROFIT AND LOSS.	\$	c.
To depreciation account	5,515.32		
To balance	72,159.15		
	\$77,674.48		
Cr.	CONTRA.	\$	c.
By balance forward from 1895	8,015.44		
By net profits in Hongkong, China, London, and Manila for 1896	69,659.04		
	\$77,674.48		

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

FURTHER SPANISH SUCCESSES.

We are indebted to Senor Don José de Navarro, Spanish Consul, for a copy of the following telegram received by him yesterday:—
Government House,
Manila, 13th May, 12.38 p.m.

Our courageous troops, following the course of their victories, captured the villages of Mendez-Núñez, Mazagondon, and Ternate, the last entrenched positions held by the rebels in the province of Cavite. The enemy suffered great loss. Our loss was also considerable, but much less. The troops behaved admirably.

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS IN 1896.

The following is the calendar of probate and administration granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong during 1896, exclusive of Chinese estates under \$1,000:—

Name of Testator or Intestate.	Value sworn under
William Hall Jackson	\$ 4,300
Franz Schoenfeld	4,500
Candido Antonio Ozorio	2,000
John Roberts Wilson	1,000
Charles Nielsen	350
Frederic Albert Ott	1,000
Li Tsing Luk alias Li Lui Ki	1,300
Tsang Tai Wan	3,000
Louis Mendel	10,500
Chan Chee	32,000
James Alexander Taylor	100
Charles Watts	1,600
Ong Kew Ho	1,200
Frank Trowers	200
Li Foong Kew	10,600
Maria Rufina Brandão Gomes	18,800
Edmundo José de Couto	400
Poon Pong	23,000
Wong Yung Ching	9,300
Joanna Genoveva do Rozario	240
Chau U Fai	77,500
Maria Antonia Botelho	7,300
Jivandas Mulji	11,200
Joaquim Victor de Jesus	200
Lee Tak	3,000
Frederick Laptiste Aubert	3,800
Dewitt Clinton Jansen	500
Li Tin Shat	39,000
Henrique Caetano Victor de Figueiredo	1,600
Adrian Ivanovich Oborin	800
Hormusjee Rustumjee Kotewall	3,200
Cheang Kang	4,000
James Francis	200
Solomon David Sassoon	233,500
Leung Tak Kin	3,000
Pang Min Ting	4,000
Jurgen Friedrich Raben	3,800
Chan Ping	16,000
Lee Chak	120,000
Christian Frederick Wilhelm Petersen	16,000
John Robinson White	6,300
Zelindo Maria Barradas	1,500
Andrew Johnson	9,000
William Porter Moore	1,000
Percy Redgrave Wilson	6,500
Yu Cheuk Tong otherwise Yu King Chung	12,000
Joseph Cian Harmon	35,297
Herbert William Johnson	500
Galbraith Moffat	300
Josephina Maria de Carvalho	20
Catharino Manuel de Rozario	1,200
William Samuel	250
Nicholas Nolan	1,200
Samuel Thomas Moore	1,000
Chan Man Kai	3,000
Cheung Ah Tak alias Cheung Fuk Cheung	1,400
Ng Yu Tin	2,000
Hsi Fū Yuen	3,600
Akid Robert Isaac Kew	135
William Maltholland	49,900
Maria Francisca Cameron	4,000
Bernard John Kearney	50
Chan King Tong alias Chan Keung alias Chan Kiu	20,000
William Henderson MacKenzie	124,000
John Stewart	1,500
Ng Wai alias Ng Kang Tong	7,000
James Joseph Enslie	24,200
Ho Chiu Kau	1,000
Catherine Afah	1,200
David William Jones	3,750
George Frank Graham	10,400
John Ham	200
Leong Ho	1,000
John Heinrich Northmann	2,500
Oscar Wilhelm Wieler	4,850
George Kenrick Moore	Nil.
Filomena Joanna Xavier	2,500
U Chün alias U Sam Woo	2,600
Pedro Aranas	200
John Hinchcliff	1,300
Yum Yune	1,500
Roger Martin	160,500
John Mathieson, Junior	4,600
Simon James Shelley	1,300
Lau Tsun Ting	7,500
Choy Chew	5,000
Yung Yat Wa	4,800

There were 2,343 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 186 were Europeans.

THE SECOND GYMKHANA MEETING.

It was baking hot on Saturday when the second gymkhana meeting of the season was held at the Happy Valley, but notwithstanding the fierce heat there was a very good attendance in the enclosure. His Excellency the Governor being amongst those present. The meeting was most enjoyable, all the events being productive of some interest, the "extras" being particularly good. But where was the band? The following is a list of the officials:—

Patrons:—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G.; His Excellency Major-General Wilsone Black, C.B.; Commodore Swinton C. Holland, A.D.C.

Committee:—Mr. A. Babington, the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving; Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. Burney, R.A., Mr. Gray, Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. McKie, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C.; Mr. G. C. C. Master, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Mr. C. H. Nugent, R.E., Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.; Mr. G. H. Potts, Commander Taylor, R.N.; the Hon. T. H. Whitehead; Mr. M. D. Wood, W. Y. Regt. Judges:—The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins.

Handicappers:—Messrs. Hart Buck, R. M. Grey, G. C. C. Master.

Starter:—Mr. A. Babington.

Time-keeper:—Mr. G. H. Potts.

Clerk of the Scales:—Mr. J. McKie.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. A. Babington.

Hon. Secretary:—Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.

FIVE FURLONG RACE; first prize, a cup presented by J. McKie, Esq., with \$20 added; second, \$20; weight for inches with 5 lbs. added; polo ponies or subscription griffins of 1897 allowed 5 lbs.; all winners of 1897 penalized for one win 5 lbs.; two or more, 10 lbs. Entrance, \$3.

Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 11st. 8lbs. (Mr. Wood) 1

Mr. Cox's Saucy, 10st. 11lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. Hermit's Wakeful Joe, 10st. 9lbs. (Mr. Jones) 3

Mr. Gray's Sperber, 11st. 3lbs. (Mr. Hart Buck) 0

Mr. Leon's Glendub, 10st. 9lbs. (Mr. Courtin) 0

Capt. Lush's Thank-you, 10st. 11lbs. (Owner) 0

The Hon. T. Whitehead's Fandango, 10st. 13lbs. (Mr. Gibson) 0

Some trouble was experienced at the post and when a start was effected the ponies were somewhat straggling, Morrison being first to get away. He maintained the lead all through and won by two lengths. Wakeful Joe and Sperber made a good struggle for third position. Time, 1 min. 21½ secs.

POLO BALL DRIVING COMPETITION; two prizes. Entrance, \$2.00.

Mr. Landale ... 1

Capt. Burney ... 2

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead ... 3

Mr. Wood ... 0

Mr. Ross ... 0

Mr. Creigh ... 0

Mr. Cruickshank ... 0

VICTORIA CROSS FOOT RACE; open to European sailors, soldiers, and police; to run 50 yards to a hurdle, jump hurdle and pick up dummy, return over hurdle past starting post carrying dummy; first prize, \$10; 2nd, \$7; 3rd, \$5; 4th, \$3, with at least ten starters. Post entries.

Twelve soldiers entered for this amusing struggle, the result being—

Private Allison, A. Co., W.Y.R. ... 1

Private Rushton, D. Co., W.Y.R. ... 2

Private Nash, H. Co., W.Y.R. ... 3

Corporal Sperling, E. Co., W.Y.R. ... 4

HURDLE RACE; once round course; first prize a cup presented by Hart Buck, Esq.; second, 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third, 30 per cent.; weight for inches as per scale; winners of a steeplechase or hurdle race 10lbs. extra; bona fide polo ponies allowed 7lbs. Entrance \$2.

The Hon. T. Whitehead's Vicar, 10st. 8lbs. (Mr. Cox) 1

Mr. Wood's The Cheeser, 10st. 6lbs. (Owner) 2

Capt. the Hon. G. Harding's Quilam, 10st. 3lbs. (Mr. Lawford) 3

The Hon. T. Whitehead's Kingscote, 11st. 6lbs. (Mr. Gibson) 0

The ponies got away to a fair start, but they were soon in a processional order, Vicar being first. Going up the hill Kingscote caught him up and at the village had gained a lead of a length. At the last but one hurdle, however, Kingscote refused and Vicar came away and won easily, the Cheeser being second.

LADIES' NOMINATION; nominees to start on foot 50 yards from the winning post, run to their nominators, who will hand each man his coat, which he turns inside out, puts on and buttons, runs back to his pony which is held 100 yards from the winning post, mounts "bare back" and rides home; first past the post with coat fully buttoned to win; six competitors, two prizes; nine, three prizes; twelve, four prizes. Entrance, \$2.

Mr. Lawford ... Nominated by Mrs. Holland 1

Mr. Cox ... Nominated by Miss Potts 2

Mr. Landale ... Nominated by Mrs. Wise 0

Mr. Cruickshank Nominated by Mrs. Palmer 0

ONCE ROUND COURSE HANDICAP; first prize \$50; second, \$20. Entrance \$1, but if left in after 2 p.m., 11th inst., \$3 extra.

Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman's Morrison, 11st. 6lbs. (Mr. Wood) 1

Mr. Cox's Saucy, 10st. 11lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. G. H. Pott's Gleniffer, 11st. 3lbs. (Mr. Jones) 3

The Hon. F. H. May's Tocsin, 11st. 0lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. Gray's Sperber, 10st. 12lbs. (Mr. Hart Buck) 0

Capt. Lush's Sidmouth, 10st. 5lbs. (Owner) 0

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead's Sport, 10st. 13lbs. (Mr. Gibson) 0

Mr. J. Thompson's Chin Chin, 9st. 12lbs. (Mr. Lawford) 0

This was a capital race, the winner coming out in grand style in the straight and he got home by a little over a length from Saucy amid much enthusiasm. Time, 2 mins. 0½ sec.

THE EUREKA AND QUEEN MINES.

We have received from Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, the General Managers, the following reports dated Mount Macdonald, 22nd April, 1897:—

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES LIMITED.—

REPORT ON EUREKA MINE.

Since last report 160 tons of stone have been crushed for a yield of 158 ozs. of retorted gold, as advised you by cable on 15th inst. Over 100 tons of this were taken from the North drive at the 200 feet level, the reef being over 5 feet in width, so that it may be regarded as most satisfactory. The drive is now in 48 feet and the reef is strong in the end and overhead and underfoot, and shows no signs of diminishing in size or quality. In the South drive, the reef is now 4 feet wide and of good quality. The drive is now in 36 feet and good progress is being made with all work. At the 150 feet level, the winze has been sunk a depth of 19 feet, with a solid reef still 5 feet wide showing good gold, as last report. The rise above this level is now up 18 feet with good-looking stone of good size and quality. We will be able to report more fully on this rise in the course of a week when it is more developed. Crushing was resumed on the 20th inst. and we hope to report another good yield. Everything is in good working order and the new paddock for tipping the stone into has greatly lessened the time and labour in carting.

p. pro. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, C. J. WILLMOTT.

NEW BALMORAL G. M. CO., LIMITED.—

REPORT ON QUEEN MINE.

In the main shaft the contractors are making fair progress. The shoot of stone mentioned in our report of 20th ulto. as being worked on gave a yield of 27 ozs. 19 dwts. from 41 tons, or about 13½ dwts. per ton, a satisfactory return from this shoot. The winding engine has now been removed 50 ft. further from the shaft, and held in position. The work of removing and re-setting boiler and of the re-erection of the engine house is now proceeded with. Prospecting shaft is now

down to the depth of 100 ft. as specified, and timbering and fixing ladders being proceeded with. We have most encouraging prospects in the bottom of shaft, the last few buckets sent up showing gold in the stone; but at present we cannot tell whether it is a reef or a leader coming from the reef. As soon as the timbering is completed, which will be shortly, work will be at once resumed, and advice sent you. The timbering up and ladders have to be completed first in accordance with the "Mining Regulations." Work has not yet been resumed at the "Grants," it being preferable to still confine the operations to "Queens" and the prospecting shaft.

p. pro. JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, C. J. WILLMOTT.

RAUB GOLD.

THE MARCH-APRIL CRUSH.—OVER AN OUNCE PER TON.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub dated 5th May, 3.20. p.m. (and only received 9th May, 9 a.m.):—

"Crushing finished, 2,420 tons stone realized 2,555 ozs. smelted gold. Prospects good."

The Free Press says:—Since the era of big bulk crushings began this is the best "show" for two months' work, that Raub has made. Of course in the earlier days of Raub Hole leader crushing stuff better value was shown but nothing at all approaching the above bulk. This shows how substantial a source of revenue the big Bukit Koman reef is now proving. The return for March and April is, roundly, worth close on £10,000 sterling, or, say at a two-shilling dollar, \$100,000. The current expenditure on Raub, including salaries and wages, fuel, and general maintenance (excepting new machinery), as well as the entire cost of new development work, shaft sinking, and opening out fresh ground, is roundly, £2,500 for the two months covered by a crushing period. The position of Raub can therefore be appreciated generally by noting the fact that the gold winnings for that two months' period has been £10,000. The net profit is thus £7,500, that is to say three times the expenditure for the past two months. When the time comes for the 40 additional heads of stamps to be put up and running, (there are now 20) it will be possible to treble the bulk of stone crushed, with but a trifling increase in expenditure. This, even if the stone were to average only half-ounce stuff, would give a return of nearly £14,000 per two months, or, an ounce value per ton, over £28,000.

The Straits Times moralises as follows:—

The local news of the day is the result of the last crushing at Raub. It had been most anxiously awaited by many; and, therefore, the telegraphic system of the Federated Malay States broke down, as it frequently does on occasions of interest. The news that has at last come—the news of over an ounce to the ton—may, possibly, send the shares "booming," on the lines that we note in an explanatory article attached to the telegram. Our present purpose, therefore, is to deprecate undue speculation. We say undue speculation. If a man have a few hundred dollars that he can comfortably risk; if the loss of it will cause him no pain or any material inconvenience, then let him risk it in mining if he please. No one can say a word against that. But, if he be running on a narrow margin of income, or if, with small savings, he have responsibilities to other than himself, then let him leave mining shares alone. The latter doctrine, of course, does not apply to the man with no family obligations, who may, if he choose, pawn his shirt for a gamble—provided that, if he lose, he will consent to wear a buttoned-up jacket without murmuring at the lack of linen that renders such a course necessary. But, above all, let every man remember that the miner can see no further than the end of his pick. He can surmise. He can estimate. But he cannot see. Wherefore, let us avoid, if it be possible, the immoral gambling spirit that prevailed at the last mining boom. For that good end, we appeal first of all to the Exchange Banks. They

should refuse to lend money on the security of mining shares, and they should jealously hesitate to lend on personal credit if there be reason to believe that the loan is to be used for the purchase of mining scrip. There is no harm—there may be much profit—in a gold-mining boom; but let it be a boom based on cash dealings. The latter phrase would of course, permit loans obtained by pledging any realisable securities, shares included. But it would not permit loans based on personal security, for that, too often, means a mortgage on the industry of the future.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE CHINESE CELEBRATION OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"
DEAR SIR,—With regard to the resolutions passed by the Chinese gentlemen at the Tung Wa Hospital for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, I hope the Chinese Committee appointed will reconsider and withdraw resolutions 6 and 7, as these resolutions, in my humble opinion, would create ill feeling. Thanking you for publishing the above.—Yours truly,

A CHINESE.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
DEAR SIR,—By the *Chinese Mail* extra issued at 8 p.m. last night I learn that the Chinese community met again at the Tung Wa Hospital at noon yesterday and, withdrew resolutions Nos. 6, 7, and 9 and substituted three new ones in their stead. It seems to me that the Chinese Celebration Committee still do not grasp the meaning of Mr. Lockhart's letter, for one of the new resolutions they passed yesterday refers to overcrowding in dwelling houses. I think it is most likely Mr. Lockhart will ask them again to reconsider this resolution, and in so doing I hope they will confine themselves to Jubilee celebration matters and not impose conditions.

In case the Chinese community or the Chinese Committee meet again to propose or pass any more resolutions or to consult upon other matters with reference to the Jubilee, I hope my friends will bear in mind that

(1) We must not mention the word "plague" again, for this is not the time and occasion to do so.

(2) We must try to be as merry as possible, for the Diamond Jubilee is an important event.

(3) We must not make other people believe that we Chinese cannot celebrate the Diamond Jubilee without breaking Her Majesty's laws.

My intention is to try to make everything go on as smoothly as possible and without a hitch and if I have offended any of my friends in this letter or in my letter of the 14th instant I shall always be ready to tender my apology.

Thanking you for publishing the above.—Yours truly,

A CHINESE.

Hongkong, 16th May, 1897.

THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

The number of votes polled by each of the candidates for the Shanghai Municipal Council was as follows, the first nine being elected—

Burkill, A. B.	240
Fearon, J. S.	239
Prentice, J.	205
Welch, J.	201
Hewett, E. A.	193
Anderson, F.	187
Rohde, M.	182
Hykes, J. R.	180
Wilkinson, H. P.	175

Little, R. W.	170
Thorburn, J. D.	164
Shellim, E.	151
Middleton, O.	67

Total votes 288. 4 irregular.

SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce was held on the 6th May. Mr. E. F. Alford (Chairman) presided and there were present Messrs. C. J. Dudgeon (Vice-Chairman) J. C. Bois, W. D. Little, A. Korff, E. B. Skottowe, McMichael, A. Wasserfall, Hearn, Hewett, Douglas Jones, Iburg, R. Sutherland, E. Shellim, D. M. Moses, Matthews, P. Brunat, A. Werth, and Drummond Hay (Secretary).

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said—Gentlemen, the report of the Committee having already been printed and circulated amongst members, you will perhaps allow us to take it as read. It deals with subjects of much importance, but paramount amongst them are the questions of the condition of the river approaches to this port, and of the possible Revision of Customs Tariff, and with your permission I will refer briefly thereto. The Committee have given constant consideration to the perplexing question of the river Huanpu, and from the correspondence published with the report now before you, you will observe we have made arrangements with Mr. de Rijke for a further survey and preliminary report, which will be commenced this month. It would be premature to commit the Chamber to a definite scheme as to how means are to be provided for the carrying out of whatever steps may be recommended by Mr. de Rijke, but it would meanwhile be well for all interested, either directly or indirectly in the prosperity of Shanghai, to reconcile themselves to the fact that no interest alone, whether it be governmental, commercial, landed, or shipping can expect to stand aside if a great work has to be undertaken for the preservation of our waterway. If the report solves the difficulties of navigation, the financial difficulty must not be permitted to bar the way. The Special Committee selected to enquire into and report upon taxation was divided into sections so that the various branches of trade might be more completely dealt with, and by these means reports have already been completed with respect to tea trade, cotton mills, silk and filatures—whilst those on piece-goods and general imports and exports are likely to be finished very shortly. For their labours we are greatly indebted to the gentlemen who undertook these arduous tasks—especially to Mr. Dudgeon, the Chairman of the Special Committee. Their work will most certainly bear fruit in due course, for they have compiled definite and correct information as to details on which we previously had very incomplete knowledge, and, whether the time be near or more distant, when these questions become matters of official negotiation, not only will the knowledge now attained place us in a position to enter resolutely on any discussion that may ensue, but we shall also have provided our respective representatives at Peking with practical statements which we know will have consideration, and which we hope cannot fail to have satisfactory results. But, gentlemen, the incidence of taxation is not the only thing to be considered whenever the revision of tariff is demanded. Ever since existing treaties were made our predecessors in this Chamber, and those of other ports, have protested, and have had good cause to protest, against many acts which they believed at least to be inconsistent with an equitable interpretation of the conditions of those treaties, and not only must we use every effort to have this state of things rectified, but in the true interests of the country in which we sojourn, and in the interests of international commerce, we must strive to open further the waterways of this Empire, and to urge, and where possible assist in, the introduction of a railroad system; without means of rapid communication we but touch the fringe of China's commerce, and having ground to believe that European trade is now not 10 per cent. of the whole trade of this country, we can forecast for ourselves the possibilities of the future were the additions and facilities such as prevail amongst Western nations. I will not detain you long as to the other subjects which are referred to in the report and correspondence; an improvement has been attained in the method

of issuing transit passes, and by desire of the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps a sub-committee has drawn up a report on the requisite revision of the Yangtze Regulations. A River Conservancy Board is a subject we have much at heart, although so far our efforts have not proved successful, but when the time comes for consideration of how riverine improvements and remedial measures for the Woosung Bar are to be financed, the principle that representation must accompany taxation may be usefully applied. Before moving the adoption of the report I shall be glad to reply, so far as is in my power, to any questions members desire to put.

There being no questions,

The Chairman proposed—"That the report and accounts for the past year, as published, be adopted."

Mr. C. J. Dudgeon seconded, and the resolution was agreed to unanimously.

The Chairman said the next business was the election of a Committee for the ensuing year. He was sorry to say that Mr. Moses and Mr. Brand were not serving again, but two other gentlemen had consented to serve.

Mr. H. R. Hearn proposed that Messrs. E. F. Alford, J. C. Bois, C. J. Dudgeon, A. Korff, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, E. Shellim, E. B. Skottowe, A. Wasserfall, and A. Werth should be elected *en bloc*.

Mr. Douglas Jones seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and assured them that the interests of commerce had the earnest and constant attention of the Committee.

Mr. Hearn proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Committee generally, and to Mr. Alford, the Chairman, and Mr. Dudgeon, Vice-Chairman, particularly. The voluminous report which had been presented, he remarked, showed the extensive work which everybody on the Committee had had to do. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman in acknowledging the vote said he could assure those present that the Chamber of Commerce was a matter of great interest to himself and his friend Mr. Dudgeon. Many matters of importance had to be dealt with by the committee, and although they felt almost incompetent to deal with them as he had said they would do their best.

The proceedings then terminated.

ARRIVAL OF THE SPECIAL RUSSIAN EMBASSY AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 11th May.

Prince Uchtomsky and Prince Wolkonsky, special ambassadors from H.I.M. the Czar to the Chinese Court, arrived here by the *Prinz Heinrich* yesterday.

A large party, among whom were M. Dmitrevsky, Russian Consul-General, Tsai Taotai, and a large number of other officials, went down to Woosung in the old *Pluto* to welcome the distinguished visitors.

The party returned to Shanghai in the *Fuyun*, which had been specially chartered for the purpose. On arriving at the Settlement their Highnesses were met at Kinleeyuen by the Shanghai Taotai, the colonel commanding the native garrison and all the local military and civil mandarins; and afterwards drove to the Taotai's house on the Bubbling Well Road, which has been gorgeously decorated and fitted throughout with electric light, whilst a flagstaff has been specially erected to fly the Russian flag. The *Heinrich* is being prepared to convey the Embassy to Tientsin, where the Viceroy Wang is making great preparations for their reception. No such complete preparations have ever been made before for any distinguished visitor, even for the Russian Grand Dukes who have visited Shanghai, the English Princes, the German Prince Heinrich, the Czarewitch himself, or even General Grant. Prince Uchtomsky adds to his other high functions the Editorship of a newspaper, and the Chairmanship of the Russo-Chinese Bank. He brings, as before mentioned, the Imperial presents to the Chinese Emperor.

Shanghai 14th May.

The Consular Body, the commanders of the men-of-war in port, and a number of other guests, foreign and native, were invited yesterday to meet Prince Uchtomsky at tiffin at Taotai

Liu's house on the Bubbling Well Road, the hosts being Taotais Tsai and Liu, on behalf of the Viceroy Liu Kun-yi. The large courtyard of the house had been transformed into a banquetting hall, and three large tables placed forming three sides of a square, with another smaller one in the centre reserved for Chinese guests. Among these were the Shanghai Magistrate, the magistrates of the two Mixed Courts, the Taotai's interpreters, and many others. The lower end of the hall had been fitted up for theatricals, and the proceedings were enlivened by a specially retained troupe of native actors.

Among the presents brought by the Embassy, which fill 48 large cases, is the grand cordon of the Order of St. Catherine, to be bestowed on the Empress, and several large vases of *lapiazazu li*. All the presents were personally selected by H.I.M. the Czar, and are valued at about 300,000 roubles. Among the attachés of the Embassy is M. Syromiatnikoff, one of the editors of the *Nouye Vremya*, and an official connected with the Ministry of Justice, who will proceed from Peking to Vladivostok for the purpose of enquiring into the working of the courts there, and afterwards return to Russia through Siberia.

Baron Schaffhausen is also attached to the Embassy as the representative of the Minister of Finance, to enquire into the details of the proposed railway through Manchuria.

The Embassy will leave here on Friday in the *Haean* (not the *Hsinchi*, as previously reported), convoyed by a Russian man-of-war, for Tientsin, en route for Peking. In all probability the Embassy will return to Russia, by way of America, but nothing definite has yet been settled with regard to route.—*N. C. Daily News*.

SHANGHAI AND THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

A SAD SHOWING.

The following letter appears in the *N. C. Daily News*—

Sir,—It is with great regret that the Working Committee find themselves compelled to ask the indulgence of the community in considerably curtailing their programme for the day celebration previously laid before the public meeting, in consequence of the subscriptions not amounting to half the estimated requirements.—I am, etc.,

FRANK M. GRATTON,
Chairman of the Working Committee.

13th May.

THE "KOWSHING" AFFAIR

REPORTED SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

Many of our readers will remember that when the Indo-China steamer *Kowshing* was sunk in the Yalu river by a Japanese cruiser, at the commencement of hostilities between the Japanese and Chinese, there was a good deal of discussion as to the liability and whether the Indo-China Navigation Company would be losers, owing to the steamer being chartered under the political tension then existing, although she was cleared by the British Consul. It is therefore a moot question as to whether the insurance companies or underwriters could be held liable for the loss providing policies were existing upon the steamer, and whether the political troubles would vitiate those policies. It afterwards transpired that the risk which the *Kowshing* carried in conveying troops to Korea was of course appreciated by the agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and they, with that business acumen for which they are generally credited, made arrangements that all risk would be on the account of the Chinese Government. Practically therefore the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. is guaranteed against all loss and it is only to be presumed that in estimating the value of the *Kowshing* when accepting the guarantee a reasonable profit would be included over and above the initial cost of the company. But up to the present no distribution of the proceeds from the sinking of the *Kowshing* has been made to the shareholders, although many anxious inquiries have been made with a view to ascertaining whether it was a fact that a handsome sum of

money would be divided amongst the shareholders. It is now reported that the money has at last been received by the agents, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., or will be under their control at an early date. But if this rumour is incorrect it is at any rate the father to the wish, but we have good reason to believe such is correct, nor can we understand why such an account has been outstanding for an indefinite number of years when we have a competent staff of Consuls to see to the settlement.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

SERIOUS MUTINY NEAR WOOSUNG.

Shanghai, 10th May.

A rather serious mutiny broke out at Setzelin, about eight miles from Woosung, among the native-drilled troops quartered there. There are in all four camps, each of 500 men, and after the inspection by the Governor of the Province some three weeks ago, it was decided to discharge about half of them, retaining some of the younger and smarter men to be drilled under foreign supervision at Woosung, replacing them in the meanwhile with 500 of foreign-drilled men from the forts. It was intended that each of the men discharged should be given three months' extra pay, but with this they were dissatisfied, demanding seven months' pay instead of the three, and on Friday they proceeded to loot the officers' quarters, pulling down the houses and breaking up everything that could not be carried away.

On Saturday morning a telephone message was received at Woosung to the effect that the mutineers were firing volleys, and were threatening to shoot General Pang, who was in command at Setzelin, and asking for assistance. Major von Reitzenstein at once gave orders for the troops to hold themselves in readiness to turn out, and about 200 men were sent out in advance for patrol duty. At 10.30 another message was received, asking urgently for assistance, and at 11 o'clock all the German-drilled troops were under arms. Seven of the infantry companies at once marched off to the scene of the mutiny, No. 7 Company, under Lieut. Quassowski, being sent to guard a large magazine, situated about half way between Woosung and the mutinous camps, as it was feared that the mutineers would attempt to blow it up. Accompanying the infantry were a squadron of cavalry under Count Nayahaus, and one battery of artillery under Lieut. Maaschke. The guns were dragged the whole way by the artillerymen, taking three hours to cover the distance, which considering the state of the roads was an exceedingly creditable performance. On getting near the camps the cavalry scouts brought in word that all but the northernmost camps were quiet. The main body of troops arrived at the camp about 2 p.m. and a cordon was at once formed round it and orders given for the men to load; two of the guns being placed in a position commanding the gate and loaded with case shot. The mutineers were all outside the walls on the arrival of the troops and greeted them with shouts of "Yang Kuei-tze," but on the order being given to load they fled into the camp. They were then ordered to give up their arms, which they refused to do, so the German officers proceeded to take them away forcibly. All the muskets and ammunition were taken from them, and the heads of all lances, halberds, and tridents were broken off. The ringleaders were placed under arrest and the rest allowed to go where they pleased. By four o'clock everything was quiet and a drum-head court-martial was held on the principal ringleader, who was the instigator of the attempt to shoot General Pang, and he was summarily decapitated. Not a single official was present at the execution, all of them with the single exception of the General, who was too frightened to fly, having cleared out. Nos. 3 and 4 Companies, under Lieut. von Nauendorff, were left at the camp all night, and No. 7 remained on guard at the magazine until yesterday morning. Patrols of cavalry were also out all night, as only the ringleaders were under arrest and it was feared that some of those who were at large might contemplate looting Woosung village, but there was no further trouble of any kind during the night.

At 8 o'clock yesterday morning No. 8 Company was ordered to proceed to reinforce the guard at the camp and three more of the ringleaders were executed. At noon Companies Nos. 1 and 2 went out to relieve the guard and the other three camps were disarmed without any further trouble. All the foreign-drilled troops behaved splendidly, the discipline being perfect, and the officers speak in glowing terms of their behaviour.

Shanghai, 11th May.

Four ringleaders of the mutineers at Setzelin, one from each camp, were beheaded on Sunday evening. Everything was quiet yesterday and things appeared to have settled down into their normal condition.

There was at least one humorous incident connected with the military trouble near Woosung. When the foreign-drilled troops marched out to relieve General Pang—not Pang as originally stated—they took with them the brass band which has as yet reached only an intermediate stage in the knowledge of Western music. After the recalcitrant troops had been disarmed the foreigners thought to enliven the drooping spirits of General Pang with the strains of "Daisy Bell," but after a while he besought them to stop that "foreign music."—*N. C. Daily News*.

WRECK OF THE "DORIS."

Nagasaki, 14th May.

The German steamship *Doris* went ashore on the north-western extremity of Tsushima island during thick weather on the night of the 7th May while en route from Vladivostok to Nagasaki and is badly wrecked. Her captain, officers and crew, with 45 Chinese passengers were brought here yesterday. Captain Koch, the secretary of the German Consulate, with the underwriters' agent, Mr. Boeddinghaus, are to leave to-day in a tug for the scene of the wreck, which it is feared will become a total loss.—*Nagasaki Shipping List*.

REDUCTION OF TELEGRAPH RATES TO JAPAN.

At the International Telegraph Conference held some time ago in Buda-Pesth, the proposal of the representative of Japan, says the *Tokyo Asahi*, to reduce the telegraph rates between Japan and foreign countries was adopted. When the chief of the Shanghai branch office of the Great Northern Telegraph Company visited Japan last month, the Department of Communications conferred with him and contracted to reduce the telegraph rate between Japan and Shanghai (which was formerly 76 sen per word) to 22.2 sen from July to September and to 24 sen after October. As a consequence, the telegraph rate to Hongkong and London through Shanghai is also to be reduced. It seems curious that from October the subscription is increased to 24 sen from 22.2 sen. The increase is due to the adoption of the gold standard from October, and the consequent change in the value of money. As the rate is thus reduced to about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the former charge from July next, a considerable increase in telegraph business to and from Japan is expected.—*Rising Sun*.

FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Twatutia, 9th May.

On 8th May the Chinese remaining in Formosa and living outside of the treaty ports became subjects of Japan. It was thought that the day might be taken as an occasion for a rebellion as the North has been infected for a considerable period with a troublesome class of natives—half rebels and half brigands. Their exploits during the last few months have been limited nearly exclusively to armed robbery. Rumours have been rife, however, for some time that a large party of rebels were making preparations to attack the capital and Twatutia, the latter place with the intention of destroying the Foreign Consulates and business houses, believing that such an act would embroil Japan with the Foreign Powers and eventually result in Japanese evacuation of the island. Whether the rebel party ever really had any such designs or not is unknown, but it is true that small armed parties came down near the city on several

occasions, committing acts of pure brigandage and nothing more; rich Chinese to be held as ransom and loot seeming to be their only object.

On May 7th the military department at Taipei received information from loyal Chinese to the effect that on the early morning of May 8th, Taipei and Twatutia would be attacked by about seven hundred outside rebels assisted by certain Taipei and Twatutia Chinese, that the party would be divided into three bands and that after the loyal residents at Choho, Shakko, and other neighbouring villages had been dealt with, those in sympathy with the rebels would all join in an attack on Taipei and Twatutia. The rebels were to be under the leadership of the most famous chief in the North; Sen-sin by name, a character well known to the Japanese. The Japanese authorities had confidence in the report and accordingly prepared to give the rebels a fitting reception. Troops were stationed outside the settlement on the principal road approaching it, including a large force at Shakko, a village to the east of Taipei. It was thought that this would be sufficient to guard against any rebels entering the city or surrounding suburbs and consequently that the attack could not occur. The Chinese, however, occasionally rise above their usual level and exhibit spurts of cuteness and ability which quite surprise even the old hands. It was so in this case. A Chinese theatre near a large joss house had been giving performances for some days and on the night of May 7th an unusually large crowd attended. It is now pretty certain that the audience was largely composed of rebels. After the performance had concluded these persons hid in the near neighbourhood, no doubt receiving shelter from Twatutia bad characters, for the settlement unfortunately has its share.

About 3 a.m. an outside party made its appearance very quietly to the east of the city and made an attack on a small wooden building used as a tax office. It was occupied by two Japanese, one of whom escaped, but the other could not be awakened from a drunken sleep and fell into the hands of the rebels, who probably carried him off, as he has not been since. The soldiers connected with the engineering corps and occupying a building near by were now aware of the presence of the rebels and the morning's firing commenced. Volley after volley was exchanged for some time. The night was very dark and it was impossible to distinguish the enemy, the flash of the rifles affording the only mark. Meanwhile another party of rebels had found its way across the railroad bridge into Twatutia and joined the main party, who had until then remained quiet in their hiding places at Twatutia. Now assembled, about one hour before daylight, they sprang upon the frightened Chinese residents and commenced a furious attack. Fortunately for the wealthy Chinese who live on the streets engaged, the firing to the east of the settlement had given them the alarm and they were prepared to escape through back doors and over roofs when it became necessary. Here comes in a curious point. Some Japanese buildings were in the near vicinity and could have been attacked without much difficulty, but the attacking party avoided them and confined themselves exclusively to breaking into the houses occupied by rich Chinese merchants, one after another, along the principal street. Some fifteen or twenty houses were thus entered, chiefly by smashing in the heavy doors, and much valuable goods and money was secured. Rich silks, opium, money, etc. fell into their hands to the estimated value of fifty thousand dollars. The Japanese force, who were unprepared for this, with the exception of the police who, although small in numbers, did nobly, were still outside to prevent the entrance of an enemy who had already entered.

Meanwhile the rebel party to the east of the settlement, after standing up before heavy fire for two hours, and the Twatutia rebels, now surrounded by the Japanese, who were closing in about them, began to retreat. Several hundred went to the mountains, one hundred over the railway bridge which leads from the settlement, and no doubt a large number returned to their mud huts in or near the settlement to once more become smiling "My blong good man" subjects of Japan. A Japanese coolie of the old school attempted to win glory and

renown by cutting off the head of a Chinese rebel who had been previously shot by the soldiers and carrying it through the streets with a swagger that would have done credit to a conqueror of the world. No doubt with the intention of gaining additional fame and perhaps position he marched along with the gory head in one hand and a large sword in the other to the police station. There his reception must have been a surprise to him, for he was taken at once into custody and will be punished according to the law regarding mutilations of the dead.

The firing was very heavy for more than two hours and a considerable portion of it at close range. The lumber killed and wounded was, however, very slight, principally owing to the poor marksmanship of the rebels and the fact that a large part of the fighting took place before daylight. The exact rebel loss has not yet been ascertained, but bodies were left on the field to the number of 124 and 19 prisoners were taken. The Japanese loss was 3 killed and 7 wounded, of whom two will probably die. Some of the rebels were dressed in Chinese garments, all white, others in garments all black, while one band wore uniformed jackets bearing the round bull's eye peculiar to the Chinese uniform upon which were the Chinese characters translatable as "Foochow army." Some 150 rifles were captured, of which nearly all were German Mausers, and much of the stolen property was recovered. The most important gain to the Japanese was the capture of the well-known rebel chief Sen-sin (Tanshin) who has succeeded in evading capture ever since the first arrival of the Japanese. Sen-sin during the Chinese occupation was one of the highest military officers in the Chinese army. Since the Japanese occupation he had received constant aid from Foochow. No doubt if the truth were known it would be found that some of the highest officials of China have been the supporters of the rebellions which have disturbed the north on several occasions. Yesterday during the fighting he was fatally wounded and fell into the hands of the Japanese, together with 12 other rebels who were guarding him. During the January rebellion of last year Sen-sin made an attack on a loyal Chinese household of twenty-two persons, killing all but the master, who succeeded in escaping to Twatutia. This man remained in Twatutia and yesterday he was called to the police station to view the body of Sen-sin, who was then dead. He immediately recognized him as the rebel leader and the murderer of his family and was so enraged at the sight that the gendarmes were forced to restrain him from attacking the lifeless body. The chief was dressed in rich silk garments and from a number of papers found in his possession he appeared to be of a literary turn of mind.

But few Chinese, at the outside two thousand in number, have returned to the mainland in preference to remaining in the island and becoming Japanese subjects. They are principally from the South, practically none leaving from the North of the island. Consequently Japan has added to her population two million nationals. The change from Chinese to Japanese as accomplished was about as simple an operation as could be imagined. No application was required; no examination; nothing with the exception that to be considered as inhabitants of Formosa the persons must have resided and owned their own fixed habitations in the island previous to the 8th of May. On the expiration of the 7th of May such inhabitants as still remained in the island or its dependencies were, with the exception of those residing in the treaty ports, deemed by virtue of the treaty of Shimonoseki subjects of Japan. Such inhabitants of the island as were absent from the island on 8th May may become Japanese subjects by application to the proper authorities.

When the head of a family becomes a Japanese subject, the other members of the family are deemed Japanese subjects, whilst when the head of a family shall not have become a Japanese subject the remaining members of the family are not deemed Japanese subjects. However, when any member of a family is possessed of an independent family, he and his family can be treated independently of the main family

to which they formerly belonged. As to the registration, the Chinese are well aware that land not the property of Japanese subjects will be confiscated, consequently they are losing no time in registering themselves as Japanese subjects. But very little land will fall into the hands of the Japanese, for the reason that but a very small number of Chinese left Japanese territory—something like one in a thousand—and they as well as those on the mainland who own property in the island found it a very simple task to transfer their property to those intending to become Japanese subjects, or some brother or cousin who is willing to sacrifice allegiance to his Emperor for the good of the family money box. There has been quite a number of Chinese in the foreign settlement who have applied for registration, principally no doubt for the purpose of keeping the property in the hands of different wealthy Chinese for whom they are no more than agents.

The disturbance in the North of which I write above will appear to the reader as it does to the foreign residents in North Formosa to be nothing more than plain brigandage and the fact that the 8th of May was selected for the day of their raids is accounted for by the reason that the brigands had hoped to obtain the sympathy and perhaps the aid of the lower class Chinese in the city and settlement and thus render more easy the attack and the looting to follow. That it was not expression of discontent by the country in general is evident from the fact that so few were concerned in it. That it did not receive the sympathy of the Twatutia Chinese, with the exception of the rough and scum of the place, is plainly shown in that Twatutia Chinese were the greatest sufferers. It cannot be said that the brigands were goaded to it, in order to keep themselves from starving, they having been driven from their homes by the Japanese on former occasions. There has never been such a great demand for Chinese labour of all kinds as at present, and it is so difficult to obtain that the present wage is fully double of that existing during the Chinese regime. To fill the demand there has been a considerable importation of labourers from Amoy and there would be more were it not for the regulations against such emigration. Nowhere in China can the Chinese obtain such high wages with such ease of labour as in Formosa.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

A fortnight ago about seven hundred disbanded Hunan soldiers were sent back from Canton by junks to their native country. When they arrived at Lok-cheong district they all landed and began to raise disturbances. The military officer who had charge of them was unable to keep them in order and was obliged to let them alone and return to Canton. The disbanded soldiers then began to commit robberies and other serious crimes. The magistrate of Lok-cheong district sent the police out to stop the disturbance. The soldiers then attacked the police, but as they had no weapons they got the worse of the conflict, the policemen fatally shooting twenty-three of them and taking seven prisoners. All the other soldiers then dispersed.

News has reached Canton to the effect that the rebellion in Shikson district in Kuchow has subsided. When the Canton soldiers arrived at Shikson, the rebels had already escaped to the mountains and dared not come forward to meet the soldiers.

A despatch has been received from the Peking Government ordering the reduction by thirty per cent. of the Kwangtung military forces. Some time ago twenty per cent. was ordered to be dismissed, so that the present military force is only half of the old force.

General Sou has sent a Wei-yuen named Ng Ching-ki from Kwangsi to Canton to buy rails for the construction of the railway between Lungchow and Tonkin. The line is about 150 li.

It is said that a likin station is going to be established at Samshui.

The Wai-san lottery has been farmed out by two Sansz named Wai-san and Lo-Kit, who have to pay to the Government one million six hundred thousand taels for a term of three years. One million taels have been paid in advance.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 14th May.

On Wednesday at 2 p.m. the Monte Fort fired one round as a signal that the *Thomas Andrea*, bringing H.E. Senhor Eduardo Augusto Rodrigues Galhardo, was in sight. A crowd immediately began to gather along the Praia Grande to await His Excellency's arrival, as everyone was desirous of seeing the military hero, with whose appearance they were acquainted only by photograph. His Excellency's deeds in Africa, by which he and his companions have added one more bright page to the history of Lusitania, will never be forgotten.

The Government servants, authorities, and Consuls were present at the wharf to receive His Excellency. After landing His Excellency went straight to the Leal Senado to receive his investiture. The proceedings passed off smoothly. The President of the Council of Government spoke a few words only in handing His Excellency the staff of power and wishing him every success in his government. The Vice-President of the Leal Senado then handed him the key, also making a short speech. Senhor Galhardo was brief in his reply and did not indulge in promises. He said that he alone could not govern the place, but that he hoped good men would give him their assistance during his administration. He then returned the key of the city to the Vice-President of the Leal Senado, saying that he did so because he intended to let the Corporation manage all matters concerning the city.

Everyone knows how Senhor Galhardo acquitted himself of his military duties. Now that he has been selected as the Governor of this colony we hope he will distinguish himself equally as a civil administrator. This is the first time he has seen Macao and probably he has no idea what is required for her welfare, but in a short time he will learn the necessities of this little peninsula, over which the Portuguese flag has flown for more than three hundred years. Some twenty years ago Macao was still one of the brightest of the Portuguese possessions, but now its inhabitants daily see ruin approaching nearer. Why is this? Because the Government will not look to the colony's welfare, but cares only to monopolise everything for the benefit of some half-dozen individuals, the remainder of the inhabitants having to submit to the caprice of the monopolists. In this way trade is brought to a standstill and people are afraid to enter on any new line for fear that if their enterprise should be rewarded with success the monopolists will at once come forward to deprive them of the fruit of their labour by offering the Government to work the business as a monopoly. His Excellency will earn the blessings of the community if he will sweep away these heavy burdens that we have to bear, and restore to us freedom of trade, allowing every one to engage in business according to his own free will. What is especially oppressive is that so many articles of daily use, the necessities of life, are made the subject of monopolies, in consequence of which the cost of living becomes dearer and dearer.

Another matter requiring His Excellency's attention. Some four years ago the Leal Senado foolishly accepted charge of the streets, drains, and public gardens, but very soon ascertained that it had not sufficient means for their maintenance. Senhor Galhardo will see for himself the present state of the streets and Praya wall. It is a year next month since the typhoon, and the Praya wall remains as though the storm had occurred only yesterday. The drains also are in a shocking state and the smells abominable.

Order after order is received from the Lisbon Government to send money to Timor. It will be Senhor Galhardo's duty to call the attention of the home Government to the fact that the money is required for Macao's own use and that a stop should be put upon the drain of her exchequer for the benefit of the sister colony.

The last Governor, Senhor Horta e Costa, did all he could for the welfare of the colony, and the reason that he could not accomplish more is well known. The memory of the

benefits conferred upon the colony by Senhor Horta e Costa will long remain green, and it is to be hoped Senhor Galhardo will also leave his mark on the colony in an equally beneficial manner.

It is said that Senhor Galhardo came out somewhat hurriedly on account of the trouble a few weeks ago with the Chinese in reference to the island of Dom Joao and that he is to proceed to Peking to arrange for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Portuguese possessions in accordance with the treaty of 1887.

The new Governor has brought his family with him, consisting of Mrs. Galhardo, two Misses Galhardo, and Master Galhardo, and two aides-de-camp.

The late Council of Government gave a dinner at Government House to celebrate the arrival of Senhor Galhardo, to which all the heads of departments were invited.

As steamers arriving at Macao are now exempt from tonnage dues and all other port charges, it is to be hoped the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. will be able to see their way to make a reduction in the fare now charged for second class passengers and make it the same as last year. The present high rate presses hardly on the travelling public and is calculated to encourage opposition.

TIENTSIN.

8th May.

We hear that the Railway School is to be removed from Shan-hai-kwan to the new buildings on the adjacent site of the Imperial Tientsin University.

The two training ships *Fu-chi* and *Tung-chi* are at the Bar with a large number of junior officers belonging to the Pei-yang Squadron (past and future). An examination of these officers was held at the Admiralty yesterday in torpedo science by Capt. Dundas, R.N.

Referring to the recent tenders for 11,000 tons of rails and fastenings for the double line between this and Peking, we learn that the contract has been secured by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., on behalf of Messrs. Charles Cammell & Co., Sheffield, for delivery at Tongku during the present season.

His Excellency Wang Wenshao has issued a proclamation which we recommend to the perusal of those of our readers interested in the prosperity of Tientsin. It is a somewhat lengthy document, but there is not one word too much; and it is, we think, a very straightforward answer to the demand for remedies against the periodical silting up of the Peiho. There is entire absence of equivocation: the Viceroy enumerates the various measures of improvement, as laid down in the report to the Chamber of Commerce, in a very business-like manner. He has appointed Wu Taotai, who was in charge of river works in various parts of this province for many years during the regime of Li Hung-chang, to take charge of the Peiho. This official, so rumour has it, enjoys the reputation of being an intelligent and active gentleman. We hope that in his new position he will act up to his character; he has some experience of rivers and their vagaries which may be useful to him, but which may also be a drawback if he happens to believe that the science of improving the navigation of tidal rivers is no further advanced than in China. He has a unique chance of making a name for himself and of doing good to his country; but we admit that there are difficulties in his way. When China began building railways, the officials frankly admitted they must trust their foreign engineers to do what they thought best; they had never seen a railway and could do nothing else. In the case of improving rivers for navigation they may not deem this necessary, but we would impress upon the authorities that those who have no idea of what has been done in similar cases in foreign countries, and who have not got the necessary scientific knowledge (which alone makes a man competent to judge whether measures which have been successful in one case, can be rightly applied under apparently similar circumstances) can know to what extent the various measures should be carried out. To each engineering problem there is a financial side which cannot be neglected, and the final decision

must necessarily in many cases depend upon expediency. We hope that no undue prominence will be given to the cutting of bends; such works are familiar enough to the Chinese and have many attractive features to the petty officials, contractors, etc. It is well known that in the early days of the railways in China, earth-works cost less than half of what they do now; we do not want at the present moment to do anything but touch upon this matter, and we only do this because we have heard absurd figures mentioned as to the cost of such works. We feel sure, however, that Wu Taotai and, if necessary, the higher officials, will see that the works are carried out in the most economical and efficient way, without strict economy and honesty being practised, the undertaking must necessarily end in failure. — *Peking and Tientsin Times*.

HONGKONG.

The public subscriptions towards the Diamond Jubilee Fund now amount to over \$35,000, a very satisfactory commencement. The Admiral has decided that we shall have one first class cruiser, one third class cruiser, one gunboat, and one storeship present in the harbour on Jubilee Day provided they are not wanted elsewhere. It is possible there will be more foreign men-of-war in the harbour, so our navy will put a poor figure on the auspicious occasion. Hon. T. H. Whitehead, law-maker, was at the Police Court on the 13th inst. in the character of a law-breaker. He rode his pony on the footpath during a deluge of rain and was fined \$25 for the offence. The Legislative Council met on Monday, when the sanitary by-laws were finally passed. The second gymkhana meeting was held on Saturday at the Happy Valley.

We recollect that a good many years ago when Mr. Dorobjee Nowrojee sent a small plate of strawberries of his own growing to the flower show great surprise was expressed at his success in cultivating the fruit in this climate. Now almost everyone who owns a garden grows strawberries and within the last two or three days baskets of the fruit, presumably Chinese grown, have been hawked about the streets for sale.

In a private letter received by a Hongkong resident from Mr. Cash, the Australian mining expert, the writer says:—Messrs. Willmott and Oglethorpe invited me to go down Eureka mine and see the reef, which I did. I must tell you I have never seen a better show before. The reef is from 3 to 5 feet wide and gold can be seen freely in the stone. I always thought Eureka was a good payable mine, but I did not expect see such a big reef in it.

Mr. R. M. Gray, for the Sub-Committee for the Jubilee Gymkhana, informs us that at the Jubilee Gymkhana to be held on the 23rd June cups will be given for the following pony races:—Three furlong race, for polo ponies; once round, handicap, for all ponies; Five furlongs race for subscription griffins of 1896-97 and ponies that have never won a race and have been in the colony two months; weight for inches with 3lbs. added; subscription griffins, non-winners, allowed 7lbs.; Champions—From the two mile post, once round and in; weight for inches, for all ponies. There will also be prizes given for bicycle races, and probably a menagerie race, obstacle race for soldiers and sailors, and other events.

At the Police Court on the 11th May three men were charged with attempting to extort money and with assault. On the 9th inst. the prisoners and six others, all of whom belong to the Tailors' Guild, went to a tailor's shop at 33, Gage Street and demanded 10 cents to be given by each of the employes in order, as they said, to defray certain expenses of the guild, such as rent, &c. The master of the shop refused to pay, the money and after using threats the men upset various articles in the shop and assaulted several of the inmates. Luckily police assistance arrived and three of the men were arrested. Two of them were fined \$50 each and the third \$25, and in addition they were ordered to pay \$5 each as compensation and to find security to be of good behaviour. The alternative was an appropriate term of imprisonment.

The appointment of Sergeant H. G. Baker to be an Inspector of Nuisances is gazetted.

The men-of-war in harbour were decorated on the 17th inst. in honour of the birthday of the King of Spain and at noon a royal salute was fired.

Hon. F. H. May's pony Tocsin was sold on Saturday after the gymkhana meeting and realised \$250. Mr. G. H. Potts was the purchaser.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the anniversary of the Queen's Birthday is to be celebrated on Monday next, 24th inst., which day is therefore to be a public holiday.

Twelve lots of house property belonging to the estate of the late Tang A Lok were put up for auction on the 17th inst. by Mr. J. M. Armstrong, but were all bought in.

On the arrival of the steamer *Formosa* from Swatow on the 13th inst. two cases of suspected plague were discovered on board. Both the patients are Chinamen and they were removed to the Kennedytown Hospital.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mines:—"Have struck a small pocket of ore in the stopes above intermediate level yielding 60 ozs. of gold."

A *Government Gazette* extraordinary was issued Wednesday containing a notification appointing Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, to be the Water Authority under the Water Works Ordinance, 1890.

A mysterious and extraordinary robbery of nearly five thousand sovereigns from the treasure room of the *Taiyuan* was reported to the police on Saturday. The vessel came from Brisbane, where she took on board a considerable quantity of treasure, including the missing sovereigns. This was all placed in the treasure room and duly locked, the only persons having a key being, we understand, the captain and the first mate. The robbery was discovered on the way up from Port Darwin, the last calling place, and when the vessel arrived in port on Saturday the police, in response to the signals, went on board. Detectives and about a dozen constables were afterwards quickly dispatched to the vessel and a thorough search was made, but no trace of the thief or the missing sovereigns was found. Of course it is possible that the gold was all landed at Port Darwin. A curious fact connected with the robbery is that lying near the £5,000 was a packet containing about three hundred sovereigns, but this was left untouched. A few months ago a similar robbery occurred on board the homeward bound P. & O. steamer *Oceana* between Sydney and Adelaide. Messrs. Butterfield and Swire have offered a reward of \$1,000 to any person giving evidence leading to the conviction of the thief who stole the five thousand sovereigns from the *Taiyuan* or for the recovery of the money.

At the Magistracy on the 13th inst. Mr. H. E. Wodehouse gave some wholesome advice to a constable. The remarks arose out of a case in which six Chinamen were summoned for assaulting Police Constables Rattey and Wilson. The defendants were eating their mid-day meal on a footpath in Hongham when the constables came up to them. Rattey went on to the footpath and in doing so upset a bowl of rice, while the other constable continued to walk in the road as there was no room on the footpath. The upsetting of the rice incensed the Chinamen and they assaulted the policemen rather severely. Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Mounsey defended the accused and pleaded that the kicking over of the rice bowl was not altogether an accident. The Magistrate discharged the defendants and in addressing Rattey said he could never take the part of the police when they behaved in an insolent manner towards the Chinese. The police were on the whole a valuable body of men, but they should never be overbearing towards the Chinese. Probably Rattey in kicking over the bowls of rice acted only on the impulse of the moment and it was hoped this case would be a warning to him as long as he remained in the force. It was unfortunate that the constable chose that particular moment to step on to the footpath, as his action had really brought about all the trouble. The Magistrate hoped that policemen in the future would consult their superior officers before acting in such a manner as Rattey had done on this occasion.

The Jubilee Committee invite a general illumination of the city and the harbour on the 22nd June.

The chairs at the foot of Wyndham Street now stand pointing up the hill instead of down, so that they are ready to take up their fares without turning. The relief to the traffic at this busy corner is very noticeable.

Just before the last race at the gymkhana meeting on Saturday Mr. Spencer made a balloon ascent and parachute descent at the Happy Valley. His performance was watched with considerable interest and the general opinion was that it was the best yet seen in Hongkong. Mr. Spencer "landed" in the harbour near the Causeway Bay breakwater, but was none the worse for his immersion.

The magisterial investigation into the charge of arson preferred against Wong Li-kung, master of 99, Jervois Street, the shop which, it is alleged, was wilfully set on fire on the 21st April, concluded on the 11th May, when the accused was committed for trial. Mr. Deacon, who defended, asked if the accused was committed for trial on a charge of murder as well. Mr. Dennis, Crown Solicitor, said he could not in any way bind the Attorney-General in any charge he might prefer after reading the depositions. Mr. Deacon said that as no charge of murder was preferred he would apply for bail. He submitted that although there might be circumstances of a suspicious nature against someone the only direct evidence against the prisoner was that some tins of kerosine were found in his room and he had truthfully said he did not know how they got there. Mr. Dennis objected to bail and the Magistrate refused the application.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Chow Dart Tong	\$25
Herbert Price	25
Geo. R. Stevens	20
Nao. Nabekra	20
U. Nervegna & Co.	20
W. D. Graham	20
Wm. Lysaught	15
Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, C.M.G.	15
Malcampo & Co.	15
Mrs. Von Stockhausen	10
B. L.	10
Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.	10
W. H. Percival	10
J. B. Coughtrie	10
Liao Tsz San	10
T. H. W.	10
E. S. Whealler	10
H. N. Cooper	10
A. G. Gordon	10
Leon Gme. Le Roux	10
Ho Wyson	10
Rev. H. Rieke	5
Jas. B. Duncan	5
Levy Hermanos	5
Newman Mumford	5
D. F. Tumboly	5
Woonwalla & Co.	5
Fung Tang	5
Hon. W. Chatham	5
F. D. Guedes	5
R. Brotherton Harker	5
Burgorjee Naorojee	3
P. C. Patell & Co.	2
J. C. Remedios & Co.	2
C. Abdoola & Co.	2
J. G.	2
F. Jamsetjee	1
E. Elias & Co.	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Well contented with the trial of Japanese captains on two steamers plying respectively to Bombay and Shanghai, says the *Hioigo News*, the N.Y.K. is now reported to intend nominating several more Japanese to vessels on its foreign lines.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 8th May, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*, states that foreign firms in Yokohama have suspended the sale of Russian petroleum, probably in the anticipation that the import of the oil will cease for a time owing to the war in the south-east of Europe.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 6th May says:—The ice-breaker *Nadeshnij*, now in harbour on her way to Vladivostok under the Danish flag, was built quite recently in Denmark to the order of the Russian Government. In shape she resembles a scow, with the exception that she not only runs up forward, but aft as well. She is of heavy tonnage and nearly 4,000 horse-power. Her function is to run straight at the ice floes and with her weight break them up so as to allow of vessels following her in and using the port. The *Nadeshnij* is a twin-screw vessel of 1,212 tons gross and 258 net register and lighted throughout with the electric light. Another similar vessel, the *Activ*, preceded her in the same direction last month.

Our Nagasaki contemporary says:—One of Her Majesty's storeships—we do not like to mention names—came into harbour on Saturday morning and made all the sailor men in the place sit up with amazed curiosity. She had apparently some object in view, but the same was indefinite; and she simply prowled around about and in and out of the harbour like a thing possessed. This singular behaviour was soon observed by Admiral Oxley on the *Grafton* and worried him immensely. Then he got nervous or something, and a few minutes after the storeship had dropped her anchor he signalled to her to pick it up again and get out of the harbour and come in like a decent respectable British man-of-war. Well, the Admiral's orders hold weight on British storeships, and the prowler quietly stole out of the harbour again. An hour later she returned and started another private tour of inspection, apparently with the object in view of occupying the entire harbour. Ultimately she again dropped anchor, and came to rest near the *Boston*, but she first had the privilege of picking up her moorings twice by order of the Admiral. Whether it was that the Admiral was too fastidious in the matter or the storeship was too eccentric, it is not within our province to say.

A very gallant attempt to save the life of a suicide was made on the 7th May, says the *China Gazette*, by an officer of the China Navigation Co.'s steamer *Tamsui*, and we hope the proper authorities will take notice of the fact and enquire into the circumstances, which are on that account worth recording. The vessel left Swatow for Shanghai on the 5th and all went well till shortly before noon on the 7th, when the cry "man overboard" was heard. The deck was at the time in the charge of Mr. J. S. Lamplough, chief officer; he threw a life-buoy to the man, who was visible in the water, and then seeing him make no attempt to save himself, Mr. Lamplough, with the greatest gallantry, dived overboard. He swam in the direction of the drowning man, who had, however, just disappeared for the last time. Captain Saies instantly gave orders for a boat to be lowered, and it speaks well for the discipline of the ship to add that within six minutes of the alarm being raised the second officer, Mr. Shaw, and his crew were pulling for dear life to the aid of the drowning man. But after pulling about for a considerable time the search had to be given up, as the man had disappeared. Mr. Lamplough was safely picked up, and we trust he will sustain no bad result from his brave though vain endeavour to save the life of a humble shipmate. The suicide was the Chinese sailors' cook.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA. EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Canton and Macao	38,772,808	42,138,250
Shanghai and Hankow	18,410,313	21,317,445
Foochow	12,749,506	14,676,078
	69,932,627	78,131,728

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai	19,809,591	20,094,771
Amoy	19,863,341	17,971,824
Foochow	11,716,761	12,199,184
	51,383,696	50,265,779

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO
ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,240,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED
STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
Yokohama	27,567,053	28,811,760
Kobe	15,102,435	18,826,303
	42,669,488	48,638,063

SILK.

CANTON, 19th May.—Reports on the second crop are favorable. The cocoons will be gathered in about a fortnight. Re-reels and Tseatles.—Remain quiet neglected. Dealers are offering contracts in new season's Re-reels at subjoined quotations, but American buyers are deaf to all proposals. Filatures.—Have attracted very little attention. The few settlements reported include: Kwong Shun Cheong 12/14 at \$640, Cheong Kee 9/11 at \$635, Yee Wo Loong 10/12 at \$630, Wing Lun Hing 11/13 and Kai Sun Cheong 13/15 at \$625, Kwong Ho 13/15 at \$600, Quan Kwong Kee 9/11 at \$580, King Wo Cheong and Victoria 13/22 at \$530. Short-reels.—Some 150 bales were taken for America at \$605 for Chun Sun Hang and Yan Hing Cheong 14/16, \$600 for Man Po Sing, Koun King and Yut Cheong Wo 14/16. Waste.—Steady with moderate transactions. Stocks.—Tseatles, 300 bales; Filatures, 1,000 bales.

SHANGHAI, 14th May.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular)—London telegrams to 11th May quote Gold Killings 8/6, Blue Elephants 9/10, and a dull market. Raw Silk.—There has been but little doing during the week in old Silk. Rumours have been current for some days past of forward purchases of new Silk, affirmed one day and denied the next. There is no doubt that contracts have been offered and we think it likely that some business has resulted, the quotations given to us are Gold Lion Kintze Tls. 395, Blue Phoenix Lafong Tls. 365, Tseatles, Hang-chows, and Taysaams.—Nothing doing. Yellow Silk.—About 150 bales have changed hands at quotations, amongst which are some Shantung Filatures (hand reeled). Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, May 6th to 12th: 251 bales White, 83 piculs Yellow, and 144 piculs Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—A settlement of some Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Pegasus, hand reeled, is reported, but we hear of no other business. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 29 bales, to Continent 4,111 bales, and to New York 3,527 bales. Wild Silk.—Settlements about 200 bales. Stock very small. Waste Silk and Pongees.—We do not hear of any transactions.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND
JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
Canton	25,255	19,039
Shanghai	55,681	55,441
Yokohama	21,019	21,718
	101,955	96,198

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN
TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
Canton	4,976	19,039
Shanghai	8,914	28,058
Yokohama	22,902	28,058
	36,792	57,166

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 19th May.—Under the influence of large arrivals prices are rather weaker. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$44.50 to \$46.50. Sales, 150 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—There is little change to report in the position of this market. Quotations are:

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$7.24 to 7.26 per picul
do. " 2, White	6.67 to 6.70 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	4.42 to 4.45 "
do. " 2, Brown	4.28 to 4.31 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	7.16 to 7.18 "
do. " 2, White	6.50 to 6.52 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	4.32 to 4.35 "
do. " 2, Brown	4.21 to 4.25 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.88 to 11.10 "
Shekloong	9.45 to 9.50 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Hertha*, sailed on the 4th May. From Hongkong for Odessa.—67 bales galangal. For Havre.—4 cases bristles, 10 cases essential oil, 2 bales matting, 202 boxes camphor, and 95 bales canes. For Havre option Hamburg.—100 bales galangal, and 80 packages straw-baskets. For Havre option Hamburg option London.—927 cases camphor, 50 cases staraniseed, 12 cases essential oil. For Havre &/or Hamburg &/or London &/or Antwerp.—10 packages rattancore, 30 cases essential oil, 1 bale silk waste. For Hamburg.—417 bales canes, 300 bales feathers, 1,270 packages crackers, 8 packages camphor-wood boxes, 162 bales rattans, 75 bales galangal, 899 cases camphor, 499 drums camphor oil, 5 cases aniseed oil, 4 rolls matting, 800 cases cassia, 20 cases essential oil, 13 packages sundries, 34 cases preserves, and 15 cases preserves. For Hamburg option London.—59 cases bristles, 50 cases ginger, 83 bales feathers, 20 packages rattan furniture, and 480 cases cassia lignea. For London.—100 cases cassia buds and 450 packages canes. For Bremen.—77 rolls mats. For Antwerp.—67 bales feathers. For Copenhagen.—1 case private effects. For Lisbon.—7 cases china and lacquered ware. For New York.—57 bales rattancore.

The steamer *Yangtze*, sailed on the 12th May. For France.—158 bales raw silk, 6 bales hair, 20 cases silk piece goods, 4 cases chinaware, 125 cases star-aniseed, 1 case paper boxes, 41 packages canes, 7 packages rattancore and 74 packages matting. For London.—67 cases cigars.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—Bengal.—The market has ruled fairly active and prices have advanced, closing quotations being \$665 for New Patna, \$720 for Old Patna, and \$667 for New Benares.

Malwa.—New continues neglected. Old descriptions have been in good request. Current quotations are as under:

New (this yr's)	\$760 with allance of 5 catties
(last yr's)	\$780 " 0 to 2 1/2 "
Old (2/5 ")	\$800 " 0 to 2 1/2 "
Older	\$820 " 0 to 2 "

Persian.—A demand having sprung up for Formosa, large quantities have changed hands and prices have been maintained. The market closes steady at \$500 to \$620 for Oily and at \$500 to \$600 for Paper wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—	
New Patna	1,540 chests.
Old Patna	370 "
New Benares	380 "
Malwa	290 "
Persian	680 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 12	657 1/2	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 13	660	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 14	661 1/2	720	670	—	760	820
May 15	662 1/2	720	670	—	760	820
May 16	662 1/2	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 17	662 1/2	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 18	663 1/2	720	667 1/2	—	760	820
May 19	665	720	667 1/2	—	760	820

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—Fair business has been put through at slightly improved rates. Stock, about 3,400 bales.

Bombay	\$16.25 to 17.25 p. pl.
Kurrachee	15.75 to 17.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca	16.75 to 18.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese	21.00 to 22.25 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	22.00 to 22.25 "
Madras	17.25 to 17.75 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—The activity last reported still continues and prices show a further advance. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.45 to 2.48
" Round, good quality	2.6 to 2.65
" Long	2.75 to 2.78
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.54 to 2.57
Garden, " No. 1	2.80 to 2.82
" White	2.37 to 2.40
" Fine Cargo	3.45 to 3.50

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—55 bales No. 8 at \$81.50 to \$82.50, 910 bales No. 10 at \$82.50 to \$83.50, 630 bales No. 12 at \$84 to \$89, 435 bales No. 16 at \$84 to \$90.50, 1,255 bales No. 20 at \$98 to \$112. Grey Shirtings—600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.02 1/2, 500 pieces 10 lbs. C. W. W. at \$3.92 1/2, 2,600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Peach at \$2.45, 700 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.97 1/2, 1,800 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.57 1/2, 1,750 pieces Blue 5 Man at \$3.80, 2,400 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Green Peach at \$2.45, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Palace at \$3.40. White Shirtings—500 pieces O. Mark at \$1.4, 500 pieces No. 3 at \$3.47 1/2, 500 pieces 1 at \$3.12 1/2, 500 pieces Flower at \$4.24, 750 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.85, 300 pieces A. A. A. at \$5.52 1/2, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.35, 1,200 pieces No. 366 at \$2.75, 150 pieces N. 2 at \$6.30. T-Cloths—2,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican W. at \$2.85, 3,000 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.37 1/2, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican X. I. X. at \$2.90, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.10, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Gold Phoenix at \$1.92 1/2, 300 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.96, 300 pieces 8 lbs. X. X. at \$3.01, 600 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Man at \$2.17 1/2. Turkey Reds.—250 pieces 4 lbs. Flatman at \$2.85, 150 pieces 6 lbs. Flatman at \$3.75, 100 pieces 8 lbs. Flatman at \$4.30, Spanish Stripes.—360 pieces B. B. B. Assorted at \$0.59, Long Ells—1,400 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.30, 500 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.80.

Metals.—Iron—400 boxes wire nails at \$5.82 1/2.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$78.00 to 112.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	110.00 to 117.00
" 22 to 24	115.00 to 120.00
" 28 to 32	120.00 to 127.00
" 38 to 42	133.00 to 140.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.60 to 1.70
7lbs.	1.95 to 2.12 1/2
8 1/2 lbs.	2.30 to 3.07 1/2
9 to 10 lbs.	3.15 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.20 to 2.40
58 to 60 "	2.55 to 3.15
64 to 66 "	3.15 to 3.70
Fine	3.97 1/2 to 7.00
Book-folds	3.50 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.65 to 1.30
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.45 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 ")	1.85 to 2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.65 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	2.10 to 2.55
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.15
Drills, English—40 yds. 1 1/2 to 14lbs.	3.70 to 5.00

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5lbs.	1.40 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
	per yard
Damasks	0.11 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.10 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17 to 0.20
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.80

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.16 to 1.15
German	1.00 to 1.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 4.50
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.75 to 8.40
Assorted	6.85 to 8.80
Camlets—Assorted	12.00 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	10.00 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.25 to 4.00
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.80 to 9.50

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.70 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.65 to —
Swedish Bar	5.75 to —
Small Round Rod	— to —
Hoop	— to —
Old Wire Rope	— to —
Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop	7.60 to —
Australian	7.50 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	31.00 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	29.25 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	29.25 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	— to —
	per box
Tin-Plates	5.75 to —

Steel.....	per cwt. case	5.20 to —
SUNDRIES		
Quicksilver	per picul	129.00 to —
Window Glass	per box	3.85 to —
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case	2.07½ to —

SHANGHAI, 13th May.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—There would be nothing to complain of in our market if only Exchange were a little higher and steadier, as reports from all sides are undoubtedly favourable, but prices seem to have about reached the limit at which goods can be distributed with any freedom. Importers appear to be realising this and prefer to keep their chops in the market to holding for the remote chance of obtaining replacing cost. Hence there is more doing in spot cargo, at prices that do not show an advance at all adequate to the level to which Sterling rates have now dropped. Towards the close there is certainly a slight recovery, but this only serves to choke off would-be buyers, or causes them to offer lower prices, out of all proportion with the advance. So far as goods in first hands are concerned the lighter weights of Grey Shirtings are in shortest supply and are attracting most attention, but holders are unable to get the buyers to pay up even for these. Forward business in Manchester makes is much restricted, but some 'air lin's' of the commoner grades chiefly of American fabrics have been settled at very cheap prices, comparatively, during the interval. The advices from Tientsin are better for English goods, which have improved some two to three candareens, but American makes are unchanged. Newchwang is gradually improving and some goods have been taken for that market during the week, notably American Drills. Chefoo is quiet but steady. Shipments to Hankow are slackening off, business there being much interrupted by the heavy and continuous rains, but prices keep steady. Local Industry.—A few bales No. 14s. of the Yarn produced by the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Limited, have been placed on the market this week, and sold at Tls. 70½ in bundles, ex duty, for local consumption. The Yarn is very similar to that turned out by the other Mills.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report) 14th May.—The market rates have at last come up to home figures, but there is little beyond the usual orders to fill contracts. A few contracts have been done as under, and these seem to show that we may expect better business in a short time:—250 cases Copper Sheeting at Tls. 28 to 28.50, 300 tons Old Cart Tyres at 94 to 95s., c.i.f. 150 cases Yellow Metal Sheathing have been done at sterling rates, and about 500 tons old materials, such as round iron, horse-shoes, boiler plates have been done at private terms.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 19th May.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.49
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.53
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.02
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	49½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	164
Bank, on demand	164½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	164
Bank, on demand	164½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	6 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	9.94
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	50.50

HONGKONG, 19th May.—The market has ruled fairly active and rates steady without any special feature to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continuing in demand gradually went up to 186 per cent. prem. after small sales at 183, 184, and 185 for cash, and at equivalent rates on time, chiefly for August and September; at time of writing shares are obtainable at 185 per cent. prem. The latest London rate is 241. Nationals and Bank of China are still neglected with sellers, but no sales or buyers.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Have all ruled dull and neglected and beyond small sales in the North of Yangtszes, North Chinas, and Straits at quotation and at \$19½ there is nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkong Fires have found buyers and have changed hands in small lots at \$352½. Chinas continue out of favour with only small sales at \$102 and \$101, closing with sellers at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Stocks have, with the exception of Douglases, ruled dull with but little or no business. Hongkong, Canton and Macao have again been offering all the week at \$35½ without attracting buyers, and small sales are reported at \$35. Indo-Chinas after further small sales at \$52 suddenly jumped to \$54½ without much business, and at time of closing are offering at that rate. China-Manilas have improved their position after unimportant transactions at \$71, \$72, and \$73, closing steady. China Mutuals are wanted at quotations without finding sellers, Douglases have been the medium of a fair business at \$64, \$65, \$66, and \$66½, closing weaker with sellers at 65½.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with a small but steady demand have gradually crept up to \$142 with sales. Luzons continued neglected and more or less out of the market with small reported sales at \$47.

MINING.—Punjoms.—The improvement reported last week continuing, rates have gradually risen from \$6.40 to \$7.25 with small sales at those and intermediate rates; another small pocket containing 60 oz. of gold was come across in the early part of the week and the written advices from the Mine are much more encouraging, in fact so much so that it is now pretty generally understood no new capital will be required, at any rate for the present. Charbonnages have changed hands at quotation and are still enquired for. New Balmorals with encouraging news from the Mines have been in some demand and have changed hands in fair lots at \$2 and \$2.20 for preferences and at \$1.90 to \$2 for ordinaries. Jelebus continue out of favour with only a small business at \$2.25. Raubs in the early part of the week were pretty freely dealt in at erratic rates but chiefly at \$22½ and \$22; at time of writing the market is much firmer with sales at \$23; shares are enquired for forward but few holders care to part "on time." Olivers ruled quiet in the early part of the week with A's offering at \$18½ and B's at \$8½; at these rates shares changed hands in small lots and later on a good many B's were placed at \$8½. Towards the end of the week, however, with good advices, both official and private, from the Mines rates suddenly hardened and shares came into request at \$20 for A's and \$9 to \$9.25 for B's, at which rates some small transactions were put through and the market closes steady at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue more or less neglected with little or no business; on time, however, at the equivalents of cash rates shares could be placed if forthcoming. Kowloon Wharves have also been quiet and neglected with no business at quotation. Wanchai Warehouses are wanted at \$43½ without bringing out sellers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled somewhat easier with sales at \$79 for cash and at \$80 for July. Hotels have improved to \$41, with sales at that and at \$40, closing steady at the former rate. Humphreys Estates have changed hands at \$8.75 and close weak with sellers at that rate, although there are probable buyers at \$8½. West Points continue unchanged with no business, buyers offering \$19½ and sellers demanding \$20. Kowloon Lands have changed hands at \$16 and are now wanted at \$16½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands ruled steady to strong in the early part of the week with fair sales at \$37, \$38, and \$39, towards the end a reaction set in and the rate quickly fell to \$36, at which a fair business was transacted; at time of writing the market again shows strength and sales have been effected at \$37, \$37½, \$38, \$39, and \$40 for cash and at \$38 and \$38.25 for June 30th; a private meeting of shareholders is called for the 20th at which it is understood the advisability of increasing the capital by an issue of new shares at 100 per cent prem. and other business will be brought forward. Watsons and Electrics have changed hands at quotations and Ropes have advanced to \$165 with sales. Cotton Mills all show a very decided improvement, and seem to have come suddenly into general favour. Tramways can be placed at par.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$356.25, sales & a. 185 % prem.]
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	nominal
China & Japan, pref.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	\$1	\$5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$21½, sellers
Founders Shares...	\$1	\$20
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	\$1	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4½, sales
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$4
China Sugar	\$100	\$142, sales
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$20½, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$40, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$32, sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$10, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$5	\$8.10, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	par, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$11, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$110
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$64
Hongkong Ropes ...	\$50	\$165, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	44 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance—		[\$450, buyers]
Canton	\$50	\$185
China Fire	\$20	\$101, sales & sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$7½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$352½, sales
North-China	\$25	Tls. 17½, sales & b.
Straits	\$20	\$10, sellers
Union	\$25	\$230, sellers
Yangtze	\$50	\$104, sales
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment ...	\$50	\$79, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16½, buyers
West Point Building...	\$40	\$14.75
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$47, sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Tcs. 500	\$0.00, sales & buyers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.20, sales
New Balmoral	\$1	\$2, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$2.20, sal. & buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20½, buyers
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$9½, sales & buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$7, buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.90, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$23, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$73, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	\$5	\$2 10s.
Do. Preference	\$10	\$7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$65½, sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$35½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$54, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$43½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$13, sales & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 14th May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Biset & Co.'s Report).—The market has been active, and that for Banks, Indo-Chinas and Tobacco shares shows an improvement. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—A moderate business has been done in this stock at 180 and 182 to Hongkong, and locally at 181 to 180½ per cent premium, for cash, and 185 per cent premium for delivery on the 30th June. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas have been placed at Tls. 185, Yangtszes at \$155 and \$157½ cash, and \$156 and \$157½ for the 31st current, and Straits at \$18 and \$19. Fire Insurance.—Chinas have been placed at \$101 both locally and to Hongkong. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. shares have been in strong demand, and shares have been changing hands at rapidly increasing

prices, Tls. 35 to Tls. 40 cash, Tls. 36½ to Tls. 40 for the 31st current, Tls. 37 to Tls. 40½ for the 31st July, and Tls. 37½ to 40½ for the 31st August. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 28. China Sugar Refining shares were placed to Hongkong at \$136½, and local business was done at \$145 for the 31st July. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$47 and \$47½. Mining.—Sheridan Consolidated M. and M. shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 2. Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$18 for the 30th June, and afterwards at \$18, \$20, and \$21 for cash. There are buyers at \$20. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold at Tls. 187½ and Tls. 184 cash, Shanghai Engineering & Dock shares, with Tls. 100 paid up, at Tls. 95, and Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 120. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares changed hands at Tls. 90. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were placed at Tls. 45. Cotton Mill shares have been in strong demand. Ewos were placed at Tls. 98½ to Tls. 105 cash and Tls. 105/106 for the 31st July, Internationals at Tls. 106/105 cum the right to the new issue at par, and Tls. 106/7 ex the new issue, Laon-Kung-Mows at Tls. 107 to Tls. 112, and Soy Chees at Tls. 540. Of the unissued shares of the International Co. 1,270 were allotted to shareholders at par, in the proportion of one new to each five old shares, which increases the capital to Tls. 78,200. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 210, and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 190. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares were placed at Tls. 310. A large business was done in Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares, which changed hands at Tls. 90 to Tls. 95 for cash, Tls. 91 to Tls. 92 for the 31st current, Tls. 90 to Tls. 95 for June, Tls. 100 and Tls. 101 for July, and Tls. 92½ to Tls. 102½ for August. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 535 and Tls. 540 cash, Tls. 550 and Tls. 545 for May, Tls. 555 for June, and Tls. 650 and Tls. 600 for December. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares were sold for the 31st July at Tls. 47½, and Hall & Holtz shares placed at \$38 cash and \$39 for the 31st July. Loans.—Chinese Imperial Government E Loan Bonds were placed, and are offering, at Tls. 275.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$35½.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—25.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$23.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$100.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$232.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$80.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 185.00.
Yangtze Insce. Assn., Ltd.—\$157½.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$185.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$19.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$32½.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—101.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$3½.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 40.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$61.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—27.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 17.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 28.00.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$136½.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$47½.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2.00.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$61.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$1.85.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$2.20.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$21.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 210.00.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 184.50.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$431½.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 120.00.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$64.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid)—Tls. 90.00.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$77½.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$154.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$8½.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 220.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 45.50.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 102.00.
International Cottonman Co., Ltd.—Tls. 107.00.

Laon-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 112.00.
Soy Chees Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 540.00.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 131.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 210.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 108.00.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 190.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 175.00.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 310.00.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 95.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 540.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 76.00.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$46.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$38.00.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13.00.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9.00.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.50.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 19th May.—Since last report the demand for tonnage for coast business is somewhat weaker.

From Saigon to Hongkong, several fixtures, being re-charters, are reported at 11½ cents per picul, and further some steamers are enquired for at 12 cents per picul. Large carriers (over 4,000 piculs) are not wanted. To Java, the rate remains at 27½ to 28½ cents according to size, and to Singapore, 15½ cents per picul with moderate demand.

From Bangkok there is no enquiry for outside tonnage, the regular line steamers being sufficient for requirements.

Newchwang to Canton, the rate remains at 28 cents per picul, although a steamer was fixed for half capacity at 25 cents per picul. To Amoy there is no demand for ready steamers; the rate has dropped to about 25 cents per picul.

Coal freights from Japan are weaker, to Hongkong \$2 per ton, to Singapore \$3 to \$3.10 per ton. Sailing tonnage is quite neglected. The British four-masted bark *Port Stanley*, 2,187 tons, proceeds in ballast to Port Angeles, W.T., under instructions from owners.

There are four vessels disengaged in port, registering 6,345 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Atlantic—German barque, 633 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$5,100 in full.

Cluden—British steamer, 2,083 tons, hence to Japan for San Francisco, and return monthly, private terms.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, hence to Japan, Portland and return monthly, private terms.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 885 tons, Iloilo and Manila to Yokohama, 30 cents per picul.

Cheang Hye Teng—British steamer, 923 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama and Kobe, 30 cents per picul.

Onsang—British steamer, 1,787 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 17 cents per picul.

Kintuck—British steamer, 2,881 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$1.10 per ton.

Jacob Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,083 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Falkenberg—German steamer, 1,175 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$2.25 per ton.

Falkenberg—German steamer, 1,175 tons, hence to Yokohama, 15 cents per picul.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Newchwang to Canton, (part capacity), 25 cents per picul.

Cosmopolit—German steamer, 671 tons, Newchwang to Canton, \$1.95 in full.

Taksang—British steamer, 977 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul.

Jacob Christensen—Norwegian steamer, 1,038 tons, Saigon to one port North Java, 27½ cents per picul.

Wuotun—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 15½ cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 897 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Ingraban—German steamer, 894 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Dante—German steamer, 1,302 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Telantos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, monthly, 5 months, (re-charter), \$6,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Aden* (str.), *Socotra* (str.), *Kintuck* (str.), *Kanagawa Maru* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.), *Elizabeth Rickmers* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Tacoma* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Falls of Dee*, *Gaelic* (str.).
Cluden (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Dordogne* (str.), *Sydney* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Silk* (str.), *Aladdin* (str.), *Clan Mackenzie*.

For AUSTRALIA.—*Chingtu* (str.), *Omi Maru* (str.).
For HAV. E.—*Antenor* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

May—

ARRIVALS.

12, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
12, Poseidon, Austrian str., from Trieste.
12, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
12, Activ, Danish str., from Hongay.
13, Choyasang, British str., from Canton.
13, Ceres, German str., from Hyogo.
13, Fansang, British str., from Newchwang.
13, Borneo, British str., from London.
13, Rio, German str., from Amoy.
13, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
13, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
14, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
14, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
14, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
14, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
14, Bayard, French flagship, from Saigon.
14, Turbo, British str., from Batoum.
14, Sakura Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.
15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
15, Hangehow, British str., from Canton.
15, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., from Bombay.
15, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
15, Sarpedon, British str., from Amoy.
15, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
15, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
15, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
15, Taiyuan, British str., from Sydney.
15, Taksang, British str., from Swatow.
16, Aden, British str., from Yokohama.
16, Falkenburg, German str., from Canton.
16, Fansang, British str., from Canton.
16, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
16, Kansu, British str., from Shanghai.
16, Oscarshah, Norw. str., from Canton.
16, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
16, Godiva, British ship, from New York.
16, Wosang, British str., from Shanghai.
17, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
17, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
17, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
17, Bombay, British str., from London.
17, Chingping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
17, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
17, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
17, Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
17, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Thekla, German str., from Hamburg.
18, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
18, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
18, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
18, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
18, Benvoirlich, British str., from London.
18, Humber, British storeship, from N'saki.
18, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
18, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.
18, Kwongsang, British str., from N'chwang.
18, Omi Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
19, Afridi, British str., from Singapore.
19, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
19, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
19, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
19, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., from Saigon.
19, Rose, British bark, from Fremantle.
19, Taksang, British str., from Canton.

May—

DEPARTURES.

12, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
12, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
12, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
12, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
12, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
12, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
12, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
12, Shantung, British str., for Swatow.
12, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
12, Yangtse, French str., for Europe.
13, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Swatow.
13, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
13, Krim, Norw. str., for Hongay.
13, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
13, Choyasang, British str., for Swatow.
13, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
13, Fausang, British str., for Canton.
13, Monmouthshire, British str., for Victoria.
13, Nanchang, British str., for Amoy.

13, P. C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
 13, Zafro, British str., for Manila.
 14, Prosper, Norw. str., for Kutohirotsu.
 14, Holstein, German str., for Newchwang.
 14, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 14, Braemar, British str., for Amoy.
 15, Activ, Danish str., for Tamsui.
 15, Aladdin, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
 15, Borneo, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 15, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Hangchow, British str., for Wuhu.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Strathallan, British str., for Yokohama.
 16, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
 16, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
 16, Chupsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 16, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kalgan, British str., for Foochow.
 16, Nadeshin, Danish str., for Vladivostok.
 16, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Onsang, British str., for Iloilo.
 16, Poseidon, Austrian str., for Kobe.
 16, Sarpedon, British str., for London.
 17, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
 17, Descartes, French cr., for Shanghai.
 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 17, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 17, Turbo, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Oscarshat, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 18, Mary L. Cushing, Amr. ship, for Honolulu.
 18, Bombay, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Ceres, German str., for Hamburg.
 18, Falkenberg, German str., for Yokohama.
 18, Germania, German str., for Wuhu.
 18, Hongkong, French str., for Pakhoi.
 18, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 18, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 18, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Dante, German str., for Saigon.
 19, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 19, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 19, Handy, British torpedo boat, for Y'hama.
 19, Glenfalloch, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Empress of Japan*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Master and 2 children, Mr. F. Leyburn, Mr. and Mrs. Hippisley, Messrs. J. J. Francis, G. Munroe, L. H. Clayton, W. Winmill, Dr. Bell, Mr. E. J. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bolles, Mr. and Mrs. E. Grey Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson, Misses Dickinson (3), Mr. Dickinson, jun., and Mr. Stead.

Per *Yangtse*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Botelho, Mr. and Mrs. Herring, Messrs. Salomon, J. Isnaru, P. Colomb, Kido and 3 companions. For Saigon—Miss M. Lacroix, Dr. Mille. For Singapore—Messrs. Rhodes, McBain, and Th. Tanno. For Marseilles—Dr. R. S. Ivy, Mr. and Mrs. Loup, Mrs. Pym and infant, Messrs. A. Zikermann, H. Graves, G. Olstein, Barat, B. Corfe, Girault, Comte and Comtesse de Sarcey and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Debrabant and 3 children, Mrs. Reuland, Mrs. P. Colomb and infant, Prince Takekito Arisugawa (Japanese Ambassador), Messrs. Saitow, Nabeshima, Funaki, Murata, Katow, Grosjean, Oviedo, Yamada, J. Adassa, Takahashi, Mitomi, and Abraham Adad.

Per *Natal*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Favre, H. E. Gaihaide (Governor of Macao), Lady Gaihaide, 2 daughters and 1 son, Mr. and Mrs. de Lima, Lieut. Ed. Ang. Mangues, Lieut. M. de Amacal, and Mr. Montgomery. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Glendinning, Mr. Jehr, Mrs. Rose Johnson, and Mr. de Ridel. From Singapore—M. de Bonnet, Lieut. G. H. Kendley, Lieut.-Col. Hastings, Mr. Boo Kee, Mr. and Mrs. Weissmann, Messrs. Y. Opon and Trieswyk. From Saigon—Mr. Hellemard, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Guillaing. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Messrs. Russel, Phipps, Sang, and Abendo. From Singapore—Mr. Chaudoir. For Kobe from Singapore—Mr. Koniski, Mrs. Okane. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Messrs. Fukuhara, Amada, and Sai-

sho, Mr. and Mrs. Terrand and son, Mr. Yoshida, Mr. and Mrs. Bogdanoff, Messrs. J. Luciani, Chevalier Luzzati, Vailes, Awatoon, and Lee Meyer. From Colombo—Mr. Efek.

Per *Wingsang*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Tommy Hudson and party (18).

Per *Poseidon*, str., from Trieste, &c.—Mr. W. B. Montgomery.

Per *Borneo*, str., from London for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hillier and infant, Mr. Norman Lamont. For Yokohama—Mrs. Norris and child, Mrs. Ray, Mr. E. L. Gordon. From Singapore for Yokohama—Messrs. S. C. Birch, Clemesha, and Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, Mr. T. Atkins, Messrs. J. Taylor, H. Peterson, T. Maltraisan, Young, W. Ball, J. Burslow, F. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, Master Fuller.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Capt. Farrow.

Per *Kaisay-i-Hind*, str., for Hongkong from London.—Mr. J. W. Graham, and Sgt. Jones, wife and 2 infants. From Gibraltar.—Lieut. Guerico, and Messrs. Matteo and Oseria. From Brindisi.—Messrs. R. Inglis and Cruickshank. From Bombay.—Messrs. C. E. Mehta, M. C. Jenupty, and E. Bettoola. From Colombo.—Sgt. J. Smith. From Singapore.—Capt. Maher and Mrs. Cass. From London for Shanghai.—Misses Underwood (2) and Mr. Wheeler. From London for Nagasaki.—Miss Macdonald. From Colombo for Kobe.—Mr. Brunner and Mr. Finch. From London for Yokohama.—Mr. Kilby. From Brindisi.—Messrs. G. B. Hamilton and Leonard. From Cairo.—Miss G. M. Fisher. From Bombay.—Major Lystrop. From Colombo.—Capt. and Mrs. Bayley. From Singapore.—Mr. Bailey and 121 Chinese.

Per *Siam*, str., from Bangkok, &c.—Mr. Munro.

Per *Kansu*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mrs. Grimbale and 2 children.

Per *Taisang*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. MacHaffie, U.S. Consul Seymour and Mrs. Seymour, Mr. Hayward.

Per *Taiyuan*, str., from Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay and 2 children, Messrs. Hill, Saviller, Boucher, Fawkes, and England.

Per *Aden*, str., from Yokohama for London—Mr. and Mrs. Gillett and child. For Sydney via Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Keogh and Miss Keogh. For Bombay—Mr. R. Pescie. From Shanghai for London—Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Pearce and 2 children, Mrs. R. Smyth, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Strain and 2 children. For Hongkong—Dr. R. Smith. From Foochow for London—Mrs. Collins and 2 children, Miss Weller, Miss Lloyd.

Per *Sungkiang* str., from Manila.—Messrs. A. M. Barretto, V. Balba and Smith.

Per *Wongkoi*, steamer, from Bangkok.—Mrs. Kinch and 243 Chinese.

Per *Tacoma*, str., from Yokohama—Mr. G. Musso, Messrs. P. G. Azbill, H. Carter, and David Kermath.

Per *Gaelic*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Noyes, Messrs. W. J. Russell, A. Grille, and B. Guggenheim.

Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Misses Affleck, N. Affleck, McKellar, and A. McKellar. From Kobe—Mr. T. Lenz. From Nagasaki—Mr. Chu Shaw. From Yokohama for Colombo—Messrs. G. M. Leaf, W. George, R. Suttle, J. Calles, and W. Miller. For Brindisi—Mr. G. Beesley. For London—Mr. and Mrs. R. N. St. John, Miss Nina Smith, and Mr. Johnstone. From Kobe for London—Messrs. D. Murray, T. McCabe, J. Lightfoot, and R. McDowall. From Nagasaki for Singapore—Mrs. K. Uni.

Per *Hailoong*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Mr. Hansen.

Per *Loongmoon*, str., from Shanghai—Messrs. Pral and Nunes.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Fleming and 3 children, Miss E. Hermann, Messrs. F. Walter, P. Kraft, T. F. Cassels, A. Loher, Ronald Potts, and Major A. Morina Luna.

Per *Lightning*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Drs. Johnstone, Heald and Vogel, Messrs. Devin, Lawrence Cartwright, Berrington, Sauballe, Solomon, and Gubbay.

Per *Coromandel*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. E. Delbanco and A. Wasserfall, Dr. Noble, Mrs. McTavi h, Mrs. Hoste and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Reed. For Singapore—Mr. MacKenzie. For Calcutta—Mrs. Addis and 2 children. For London—Mr. J. H. Steele, Miss Leggett, Mr. W. Lloyd Jones, Mr. and Mrs. G. Howell and infant.

Per *Omi Maru*, str., from Japan—Messrs. Ford and Aldrich, Capt. McIvor.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coptic*, str., for Shanghai—Messrs. H. S. Moss and P. Langen. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. Pfau, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Messrs. G. S. Hammond and J. E. Vallance. For Yokohama—Capt. Duncan, Mr. C. J. Dalby, Col. and Mrs. Gordon, Messrs. R. A. Anderson and J. Mears. For San Francisco—Capt. and Mrs. W. J. Bryan, Mrs. W. H. Neville and Miss Pierce, Mr. Jas. A. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Yeong Win Pau and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Dare, Mr. H. Kobbe. For Boston—Mr. J. G. Purves, Miss Burnie. For London—Surg.-Maj. P. J. Dempsey, Mr. J. N. Sidebottom.

Per *Natal*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Messrs. J. A. Brandenburg and M. J. D. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Leven. For Yokohama—Mr. S. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. V. Larue, Misses Eyre and Johnston. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Messrs. Russell, Phipps, Sang, and Abendo. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Chaudoir. For Kobe from Singapore—Mr. Konishi, Mrs. Okane. For Yokohama from Marseilles—Messrs. Fukuhara, Amada, and Saisho, Mr. and Mrs. Terrand and son, Mr. Yoshida, Mr. and Mrs. Bogdanoff, Messrs. J. Luciani, Chevalier Luzzati, Vailes, Awatoon, and Lee Meyer. From Colombo—Mr. Erck.

Per *Yangtse*, str., from Hongkong for Samarang—Mr. Lloyd Evans. For Colombo—Mr. Cawasjee, Eduljee. For Marseilles—Messrs. John Macnah, Mello, W. A. Keay, Rev. Ruelan, Rev. Dessolmes, Mrs. B. Braunshweig, Messrs. C. A. Favares, J. D. Pacheco, Mout, A. F. S. Ribeiro, J. F. Marcos, C. de Conceicao Alves, and J. Simoes. From Shanghai for Saigon—Miss M. Lacroix, Dr. Mille. For Singapore—Messrs. Rhodes, McBain, and Th. Tanno. For Marseilles—Dr. R. S. Ivy, Mr. and Mrs. Loup, Mrs. Pym and child, Messrs. A. Zikermann, H. Graves, G. Olstein, Barat, Rev. Bishop Corfe, Mr. Girault, M. le Comte and Mme. la Comtesse Sarcey and child, Mr. and Mrs. Debrabant and 3 children, Mrs. Reuland, Mrs. P. Colomb and child, Prince Takekito Arisugawa, Messrs. Saitow and Nabeshima, Capt. Funaki, Col. Murata, Messrs. Katow, Grosjean, Oviedo, Yamada, J. Adassa, Takahashi, Mitomi, and Abraham Adad.

Per *Borneo*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Messrs. H. Ashton and N. P. Brown. For Yokohama—Mr. Ross. From London for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Hillier and child, Mr. N. Lamon. For Yokohama—Mrs. Norris and child, Mrs. Ray, and Mr. E. L. S. Gordon. From Singapore for Yokohama—Messrs. P. C. Birch, Clemesha, A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. A. Atkins, Messrs. T. Atkins, J. Taylor, H. Peterson, Maltraison, J. Young, W. Ball, J. Burston, and F. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, and Master Fuller.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Foochow—Mr. England, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay and 2 children.

Per *Chelydra*, str., for Singapore—Messrs. L. A. M. Johnstone, Gutierrez, and Lai Kin Tung. For Calcutta—Mr. J. E. Cowen.

Per *Kaisay-i-Hind*, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Mr. A. M. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Pollard, Mrs. Chester, Miss C. Milne, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Messrs. E. Pollard, Collano, Coirway, W. Pollard, and Machado, Misses J. Pollard, V. Martin, E. Pendleton, M. Mansergh, J. Ford, A. Moore, A. Pollard, C. Pollard, E. Norwood, and L. Stewart, Masters C. Keighley, L. Pollard, C. Chester, W. Chester, C. Chester, J. Pollard, A. Goulding, B. Mansergh, W. Stewart, Wilson and sister. For Yokohama via Shanghai—Lieut. A. E. M. Head. From London for Shanghai—Misses Underwood (2), and Mr. A. Wheeler.

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